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History of the
**North Carolina Baptist
State Convention**



By Livingston Johnson
Corresponding Secretary



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To My Friends
The Two Hundred Thousand Baptists in North Carolina
This Little Book is Affectionately Dedicated

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INTRODUCTORY.

Columbus Durham, when Corresponding Secretary of the State Convention, performed a service for the Baptists of the State, which must last through all time. He gathered the minutes of the Chowan Association from 1806 to 1845, and had them bound and placed in the Mission Rooms. He then collected the minutes of the State Convention from its organization and had them neatly bound, that they might be preserved. In this work he was assisted by brethren John E. Ray and N. B. Cobb, and many of the elect, both men and women, rendered valuable aid by sending copies of the minutes which they had in their possession. Indeed, Mr. Ray began the work of collecting the minutes, but Dr. Durham had the first volume bound. I have been reading this glorious history at odd times, and have never read a romance that was, to me, more thrillingly interesting.

As I read the record contained in the minutes from year to year, the thought came to me that this history is too precious and valuable to be kept locked up in this office. It seemed to me that the Baptists, especially the younger ones, in the State, should be made familiar with the heroic deeds of our Baptist fathers. The more I read, the stronger grew this conviction. Several brethren asked that this matter be put in permanent form. Thus encouraged, I have decided to undertake the work.

This little book will consist of extracts from the minutes, with just enough explanatory notes to make it a connected history.

I sincerely trust that others may find it as interesting as did the compiler, when he read it, and that it may awaken in us an earnest desire to do our part in building a worthy structure on a foundation so wisely laid.

LIVINGSTON JOHNSON.

HISTORY OF North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

CHAPTER I.

THE BEGINNING OF ORGANIZATION.

The Baptist State Convention was conceived in the consecrated brain of Martin Ross. In the minutes of the Chowan Association, held in May, 1809, Elder Martin Ross submitted a motion, "embracing an inquiry as to the propriety of establishing a meeting of general correspondence, to be comprised of the neighboring associations."

The minutes of 1809 contain the following: "Business of forming a general meeting for correspondence introduced last year, was taken up; and to the committee then appointed, Elder Dossey is now added, who presented to the Association the following report: 'Your Committee beg leave to report a disagreement to the partial and contracted plan first under consideration; and would warmly recommend that this meeting be so formed and constituted as to admit freely, and upon equal ground, all the Baptist Associations in the State, similar, perhaps to that formed, and now forming, by the numerous Baptist Associations in the State of Virginia.' "

The Committee addressed a circular to all the Associations, and received a favorable response from many of them. Consequently a meeting was called, to be held on "Friday before the first Lord's Day in June (1811) at the falls of Tar River, to form a constitution for the organization of such a meeting." The "North Carolina Baptist General Meeting of Conference" was organized, and met annually. Martin Ross was the leading spirit. There is no record of this General Meeting at hand, but from the references in the minutes of the Chowan Association, we gather that its object was to secure more perfect co-operation, and to promote the interests of Missions. Missionary societies were organized in the Association, and the name of "General Meeting of Conference," was changed to "The North Carolina Baptist Benevolent Society."

The minutes of 1826 contain this resolution: "Resolved, That Brethren M. Ross, Meredith, Newborn, Jordan and Hall be appointed to correspond with the Associations of the State, with a view to forming a State Convention, and report to our next Association."

At the next meeting (1827) the Committee reported that nothing had been done, and, on motion, they were discharged. The old adage that "it is always darkest just before daylight," was certainly true in this instance. The agitation soon bore fruit, for in the minutes of 1830 we read these words: "Re-

solved, That this Association cordially approve of the formation of the Baptist Convention of this State, recently organized at Greenville, and zealously patronize its objects.

“Resolved, That this Association respectfully recommend to the churches composing this body, that they take into special consideration the claims of the Baptist Convention recently organized in this State, and patronize its objects according to their several abilities.”

There was held in the town of Greenville, N. C., on March 26, 1830, a meeting of “The North Carolina Baptist Benevolent Society.”

The members of this society concluded that the time had come to “lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes,” as the following resolution, “which was adopted without a dissenting voice,” shows: “Resolved, That this society be transformed into a State Convention.”

Few and simple are those words, but their full import eternity alone can reveal. That short resolution called into being the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, an organization whose influence in our commonwealth, especially in regard to Baptist affairs, none of us can fully appreciate. Martin Ross, who had dreamed of this Convention, was not present at its organization. God had called him to that “great Convention in the skies.” There were fourteen brethren present, and their names are given

as follows: P. W. Dowd, R. M. Guffie, William P. Biddle, Samuel Wait, John Armstrong, Thomas Meredith, Charles W. Skinner, James McDaniel, H. Austin, P. P. Lawrence, R. S. Long, Thomas D. Mason, George Stokes, R. S. Blount. Elder P. W. Dowd was elected president, Elder John Armstrong recording secretary.

It is evident that they had agreed beforehand to organize a Convention at this time, for a constitution was adopted immediately after the resolution, given above, was passed. The Mission work, prior to the organization of the Convention, seems to have been done through Missionary societies, in the several Associations, rather than through the churches, and the "Baptist Benevolent Society" seems to have borne about the same relation to these associational societies that the Convention now bears to the churches. Indeed, the Convention simply took the place of the general Benevolent Society, leaving the local societies just as they were.

Thomas Meredith was appointed to prepare a circular, to be attached to the report of this Convention. This circular letter is a carefully prepared and very able document. It is addressed to the Baptists of North Carolina, and covers thirteen pages of fine print. We learn from this letter that the Convention was organized for the purpose, primarily, of giving the Gospel to North Carolina, and then to all the world. To do this they see the absolute necessity

of having a better equipped ministry, hence ministerial education becomes one of the important objects of the Convention. The letter is a clear, bold expression of earnest and brave men, who are entering upon a great work, with a full consciousness of the difficulties that confront them. They know that the chief obstacle will be opposition from their own brethren. They reckon with this in the outset, and meet it in a very straightforward, manly way. A few extracts from this magnificent paper will give us some idea of the spirit of the men who organized the Convention, and the purpose that inspired them in its organization.

MEREDITH'S GREAT ADDRESS.

"A wish has prevailed to some extent, and it is believed to be neither an unreasonable nor an uncharitable one, to see Baptist churches in many places where they are not; and to see all under the superintendence of a faithful and successful ministry. It is a plain case that where there is no church there adequate resources for the immediate support of the Gospel can not be expected. And it is equally plain that the insufficiency of a large proportion of the organized churches in the State is nearly, if not quite, as great. It is the grand object of the Convention to supply these deficiencies. * * * It is a State enterprise in which the welfare and reputation of the denomination are involved and in which many in-

dividuals are personally and deeply interested." After stating that the work in our own State would receive special attention, we find this sentence: "This explanation is made, not for the purpose of eluding any of the hostility, which is usually waged against Foreign Missions, for all missions are substantially the same, but for the purpose of having it distinctly seen that the primary object of the Convention at present, is to repair the waste places of our own State."

Those who oppose the "organized work" are addressed kindly but with great candor, as the following extract will show: "Brethren, you who are averse to State Conventions and to Missions and to Education Societies, and who have carried your hostility so far as to threaten with excommunication those of your church members who dare to think and act differently from yourselves in these matters, we wish it distinctly understood that we have no quarrel with you of any kind. We neither dislike nor envy you, nor do we despise you, nor do we fear you. We regard you as Christians, as Baptists and as brethren; but we consider you sadly mistaken, and we sincerely regret the loss of your services in the important and interesting work before us. * * * You may misrepresent our intentions if you choose, you may impugn our reputations and you may conflict with our movements; but you can not injure us nor can you prevent the accomplishment of our plans. The improvement of the ministry and of the Baptist

churches of North Carolina will be effected, and by means proposed, either sooner or later." Then follows an earnest appeal to those who are friendly to the Convention and its work. The temptation is great to quote more largely from this inspiring letter, but I forbear, and simply give the closing words of this ringing appeal: "Men and brethren, who live in the brightest day the world has ever seen, who are permitted to witness events which would have dazzled the vision and startled the faith of prophets and apostles—who are favored with opportunities which no preceding generation was ever permitted to enjoy—who sustain responsibilities more fearful, perhaps, than any which ever before oppressed the conscience of men—and whose passage through life is swifter than the flight of the weaver's shuttle; consider, we beseech you, who and where you are. Mark the surprising and momentous peculiarities of your situation! Let your own hearts speak and more need not be said. This single advocate will set up a plea within you, more moving than the lofty pathos of Isaiah, or all the winning charms of an Apollos; and an appeal which surely will not, can not be set up in vain."

A "Board of Directors" was appointed, which corresponds to our Mission Board, and a dozen brethren were selected as agents, whose business seems to have been to present the claims of the Convention as widely as possible in their respective sections of the State.

The basis of representation was fixed at one delegate for every ten dollars contributed to the objects of the Convention. The delegates at first were not from the churches, but from the Missionary societies in the churches.

Having finished the business of this momentous meeting, these "heroes of the faith" adjourned to meet at "Rogers's Meeting-House," in Wake County, in April, 1831.

CHAPTER II.

1831—1842.

ROGERS'S MEETING HOUSE, WAKE COUNTY, APRIL
15-18, 1831.

At the second meeting there were thirty-seven delegates. Dowd was again elected President; John Armstrong, Corresponding Secretary; N. G. Smith, Recording Secretary, and Henry Austin, Treasurer. The duties of the corresponding secretary were not the same then as now. He had a sort of general oversight of the work, but did not give his whole time to it, and received no compensation for his services. Elder Samuel Wait was elected by the Board of Managers, which met after adjournment of the first Convention, as General Agent of the Convention. His duties were about the same as those now required of the Corresponding Secretary. His compensation was a dollar a day, and the salaries of the missionaries were to be ten dollars a month for single men and not more than twenty-five dollars a month for married men. Four missionaries were employed for next year; two for six weeks each, one for three months and one for two months. These missionaries were simply evangelists, who visited churches, held meetings and explained the work of the Convention.

There are two things observed in the minutes of the second session of the Convention, which we sometimes claim as modern improvements. These are

Woman's Missionary Societies, and the Volunteer Mission work. Brethren were here as delegates from Raleigh, Bethel and Cape Fear Female Benevolent Societies; and a little farther on, seventeen brethren offered a month's gratuitous service each, to be sent where, in the judgment of the Board, their labors would accomplish most.

The Treasurer's report shows three columns, one for Home Missions, one for Foreign Missions, one for Education, and one for totals. Be it remembered that Home Missions in those early years meant State Missions. We can understand now, why so many brethren in the State, even to this day, get Home and State Missions confused. For nearly forty years of the Convention's life, Home Missions meant State Missions.

REEVE'S CHAPEL, AUGUST 3-7, 1832.

P. W. Dowd declined re-election as President, and W. P. Biddle was elected to that position. G. W. Hufham is a delegate to this Convention. This is the first mention of a name which has been an honored one in our Convention ever since.

Steps are taken looking to the establishment of a college, as the following resolution shows: "Resolved unanimously, That the Convention deem it expedient to purchase a suitable farm, and to adopt other preliminary measures for the establishment of a Baptist Literary Institution in this State on the Manual Labor principle."

A committee was appointed to solicit funds with

which to purchase a farm. Two thousand dollars had already been given for this purpose. The committee was authorized to contract for such plantation as in their judgment would be "adapted to the object to which it is to be appropriated." This committee consisted of J. G. Hall, William R. Hinton, J. Purifoy, A. S. Winn, and S. J. Jeffries. Already something had been done toward ministerial education. Brother George W. Thompson, who was conducting a private school in Wake County, generously proposed to instruct, without charge, beneficiaries of the Board. William Jones and Patrick Connelly were adopted as the first beneficiaries, and placed in Brother Thompson's school. Already there was some opposition to ministerial education, as we gather from the following:

"WHEREAS, reports are industriously circulated that it is the design of this institution, by endeavoring to promote the education of young ministers, to suppress the preaching of those not favored with such advantages; therefore,

"Resolved, That this Convention deeply regret that any person should be so wicked as to propagate such scandal, and that any should be so weak as to give it credence; inasmuch as this body has so carefully guarded against any mistake on this subject, and every person of the most ordinary intelligence must know that the Convention has not the power to effect such an object if they even possessed the inclination."

At this Convention the necessity for a denomina-

tional paper was recognized. In his report to the Convention, the General Agent, Elder Samuel Wait, says: "It will easily be seen that we have long labored under great and very serious disadvantages from the want of a well conducted religious journal. Such a paper we might hope, being adapted to the existing state of our churches, would be productive of the best consequences. Much information on important subjects could be imparted to the churches and our congregations at large, many prejudices removed, and the way soon prepared for securing to the Convention annually, a larger amount of aid." The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"WHEREAS, This body has been informed that Brother T. Meredith, of Edenton, contemplates the publication of a religious periodical, to be issued monthly at the moderate price of one dollar per annum; therefore,

"Resolved, That this Convention highly approve the undertaking, and earnestly recommend their brethren to give it a liberal patronage."

This much space has been given to the school and the paper because no other instrumentalities have had so much to do with the upbuilding of our denomination. The consummate wisdom of our fathers is seen in that they recognized the necessity for both of these agencies at the same time, and started them on their useful careers. Through all the years they have gone on hand in hand strengthening our Baptist Zion.

“Resolved, that no member of the Board of this Convention (Board of Missions) shall receive for any services he may render, any pecuniary compensation from the funds of this Convention.”

That resolution remains unchanged. The members of the Board do not even receive their traveling expenses. The salary of the General Agent, as that of the Corresponding Secretary now, was paid from “the three several funds of this institution in a proportion corresponding to the amount contributed to each during the year.”

One hundred dollars was appropriated to the Church at Wilmington on condition that they secure a man who will be acceptable to the Convention.

In the report of the Committee on “Home Missions,” which meant State Missions, attention is called to great destitution. In Brunswick, Halifax, and Robeson Counties, there was not a Baptist preacher. In Wilmington and all the lower part of New Hanover the people were entirely destitute. Wake and Johnston were mission fields. Elder James Dennis was missionary in these two last-named counties, and had constituted a church at Smithfield, with forty or fifty members.

CARTLEDGE’S CREEK, NOVEMBER 1-6, 1833.

W. P. Biddle was elected President, John Armstrong, Corresponding Secretary; Amos J. Battle, Recording Secretary, and Charles McAllister, Treasurer.

The minutes of that session are missing and we have not the history in detail. We gather from other sources, however, that Mr. Meredith had begun the publication of his paper, and the committee appointed to purchase land for the Labor Manual School reported that they had procured a farm of one hundred acres from Dr. Calvin Jones, of Wake County.

CASHIE MEETING HOUSE, BERTIE COUNTY,
NOVEMBER 1-5, 1834.

Alfred Dockery was elected President. At this Convention delegates were appointed to the "Triennial Meeting of the Baptist General Convention of the United States." These delegates were Thomas Meredith, Samuel Wait, and Amos J. Battle. Fraternal messengers were sent to the South Carolina and Virginia Conventions, and this custom was kept up for many years.

The State was divided into four fields, as we gather from the following:

"Resolved, That the following brethren be appointed agents to perform each six months service in the proportion of territory respectively appropriated to each, namely, James Thomas, in that district lying west of the Yadkin, taking in also the county of Surry; John Culpepper, Sr., in that lying between the Yadkin and the Cape Fear, including also the counties of Chatham, Person and Caswell; Wm. J. Finley, in that lying between the Cape Fear and the Tar, embracing also the counties of Halifax and

Northampton; and George M. Thompson, in that included between the last-named boundary and the Atlantic.

“Resolved further, That the above agents be allowed a compensation of seventy-five cents per day.”

The reports of the four agents, or missionaries, are very encouraging. From their reports we glean some important facts. There were twenty-seven Associations in the State, and three others partly in this State and partly in South Carolina. Nineteen co-operate with the Convention, and in these nineteen over four thousand were added by baptism last year. The other eight Associations were opposed to Wake Forest, the Convention and all organized work. “It is clearly seen that all these churches and religious bodies opposed to practical godliness, and the missionary enterprise are lean and dry like Gideon’s fleece, while those decidedly friendly are growing and flourishing like the rose.”

There is a most hopeful note running through all the reports at this Convention. A brief review of the four years of the Convention’s life, shows very much accomplished. Opposition is dying away; denomination growing in influence; arrangements made to send the Gospel to many destitute sections of the State; Wake Forest established and seventy students present the first year; more than thirteen thousand dollars subscribed, and part of it paid to erect suitable building at Wake Forest; missionaries have traveled through the whole State and great revivals

resulted; enlargement of State Mission work; State divided into twelve sections and a missionary placed in each section for six months. This is an advance of two hundred per cent. No wonder the writer of the report breaks forth in the joyous acclaim: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

UNION CAMP GROUND, ROWAN COUNTY, OCTOBER
20 TO NOVEMBER 3, 1835.

"The *Interpreter*," whose publication was begun in 1833, was changed to a weekly, and called "the *Biblical Recorder*." At this Convention, John Culpepper, Sr., and Francis Hawley, father of Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, were employed as General Agents. The following resolution shows the spirit of the Convention in regard to Foreign Missions:

"Resolved, That we highly approve the resolution of the Triennial Convention to raise one hundred thousand dollars for Foreign Missions next year, and that we will use our best efforts to pay our full proportion of the sum."

Hear the brethren as they speak of "eliciting, combining and directing":

"Resolved, That our agents and missionaries be instructed to learn the number of Associations, ministers and private members of the denomination in the State, also how many of the above are favorable to missions and how many are not—together with the addresses of the ministers."

In its report to the Convention, written by John

Armstrong, the Board considers the "unsettled condition of our population as a source of discouragement and disappointment. Many of our most efficient brethren have removed to the distant West and many more are on the eve of departure."

The Wilmington Church was reported to be in a prosperous condition. A committee was appointed to adopt measures that might tend to secure the services of an efficient pastor for the Raleigh Church. In concluding this report John Armstrong says: "Everything that the Convention has touched has prospered. By the grace of God our missionaries have been successful in turning souls to the Lord; and our agents have, to a very great extent, raised up the denomination to a sense of its duties and of the wants of the people. The Great Head of the Church has especially blessed the Wake Forest Institute. The past has been one continual series of successes for which our prayer is, 'Lord give us thankful hearts.' The future is before us—we have the promise of Him who is truth itself that if we faint not we shall reap."

J. S. Ballard is elected Sunday School agent. This is the first mention of such an agent. The cause of temperance is declining. There are seventeen stills in the West. Many church members are engaged in the business.

The necessity for a Female Seminary is suggested, but no steps are taken looking to the establishment of such an institution.

COUNTY LINE, NOVEMBER 11-15, 1836.

John Kerr, and A. M. Poindexter, from the General Association of Virginia, and H. A. Wilcox, representing the American Home Missionary Society, were welcomed to seats. This is first mention of the American Home Mission Society. Committee appointed to communicate with the Baptists in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and District of Columbia respecting the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of Luther Rice.

"The Committee to whom was referred the subject of a Female Seminary beg to report: That they have had the matter under consideration, and have come to the conclusion that it is not expedient at present, to establish such Seminary. Such are the claims and wants of the institute now under the care of the Convention, that it would appear to the committee that it would too much divide the attention and resources of our friends and patrons to create a new institute at this time." This report was signed by Wm. Hooper, Chairman.

A committee was appointed "to take immediate measures to secure the amount of \$17,000 for the purpose of establishing a professorship for theological instruction in this State."

Extracts from report on periodicals: "Your committee think that it is a cause of just congratulation that our denomination enjoys the honor of having originated the first religious periodical in the State." Further down in the report occurs this despondent

sentence: "You may suppose, therefore, that it was not without feelings of painful interest that we have learned that the very existence of our paper was in jeopardy; that the patronage it received was not at all commensurate with its necessities; and that in fact, but for certain facilities of publication which the editor enjoys, even the expenses of its publication could not be met." The committee recommended that an agent for the *Recorder* be put in the field and that the friends of the paper pledge themselves for his support. This recommendation was adopted, and Elder Francis Hawley was employed as agent.

The report on Home (State) Missions contains these words: "The Home Missions department constitutes one of the most important branches of operation in which the Convention is engaged. It is that on the success of which depends, to a great extent, the success of all the others. It is to this that we must look for the cultivation of the soil, from which alone our resources can be obtained. It is this, therefore, to which the attention of the Convention should be directed as a matter of radical interest."

Francis Hawley, one of the general agents, has encountered a spirit of apathy which alarms him. He says: "It is a painful fact that almost general apathy prevails among the churches where I have traveled relative to the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The Church has evidently drunk deep into a worldly spirit; and many who, a few years ago, seemed to run well, now seem to be bending all their energies

to amass a fortune. It is evident that Christians do not realize their obligation, hence there is but little spontaneous action." Further on in his report he says: "There can be but little doubt that the Sabbath School and temperance cause are on the retrograde; many who once put their hands to the plow have looked back."

John Blount, of Edenton, bequeathed his entire estate, worth ten or eleven thousand dollars, to Wake Forest Institute. John Armstrong, in the report on education, recommended that measures be devised to add six or seven thousand dollars to this bequest, and with it a chair of Sacred Literature be established, to be called the Blount Professorship. It was likely, when acting on this report, that the committee was appointed to secure \$17,000 to establish a theological professorship.

No general agent was employed for the ensuing year. The matter was left in the hands of the Board with "power to act."

MAY'S CHAPEL, CHATHAM COUNTY, NOVEMBER
3-7, 1837.

A resolution was passed requiring the Missionaries to make quarterly reports to the Corresponding Secretary.

A proposition was submitted from the Baptists of South Carolina looking to the union of the papers of the two States. The Convention heartily favored the union, "but are of the opinion that it is indispensable to the interests of this Convention that the publication be issued in some part of this State."

“Resolved, That the brethren are affectionately requested to make efforts for the increase of the funds of the Convention generally, but especially Home Missions and education.”

The Committee on Religious Instruction of Slaves urged that places be provided for them in the houses of worship, and that their religious instruction receive special attention.

Missionaries for the first time are asked to take collections. Hitherto because of the prejudice against it they had been instructed not to take collections. The Treasurer's report shows a falling off in contributions of thirty-three and a third per cent. This, doubtless, was because there was no general agent in the field. The Committee on General Agency say that in their opinion an “active and discreet agent is indispensable to the future prosperity, if not to the permanent existence of the body,” and recommend that one be put in the field. Elder Samuel Wait was appointed to act as agent for the Convention while traveling for Wake Forest Institute. Three missionaries were appointed for full time and one for six months.

BROWN'S CHURCH, SAMPSON COUNTY, NOVEMBER
3-7, 1838.

It should have been stated in former papers, that the *Recorder*, which was first printed in Edenton, was, in 1835, moved to New Bern, and in 1837 to Raleigh.

The Female Seminary was considered again in 1838. The committee recommended that a joint

stock company be organized, if possible to establish a school in Raleigh with capacity for thirty pupils.

In commenting upon the report of R. McNabb, one of the missionaries, the Board says: "The Association (the Chowan) he found beyond any other devoted to the objects of the Convention. Wherever he has been he has been kindly received, and finds a general desire prevailing, that the number of our missionaries should be increased." Mr. McNabb's report shows that he collected more than his salary. This is the first time such a thing occurred. Elder Wm. Hill Jordan, Corresponding Secretary, in his report, uses these words: "Brethren, what we do must be quickly done. Death will soon come and put an end to all our schemes on earth." Dr. Durham wrote on the margin, "It did not end the schemes of these fathers."

Up to this time John Armstrong had been Corresponding Secretary, but he spent a year in Europe, and Wm. Hill Jordan was elected as Mr. Armstrong's successor.

GRASSY CREEK CHURCH, GRANVILLE COUNTY,
NOVEMBER 1-4, 1839.

It was noted in the last paper that the brethren were somewhat depressed in spirit concerning the work of the Convention, owing to a general apathy on the part of the Baptists of the State. That feeling lasted only for a little while, however, for at the ninth session there was a marked advance movement.

They increased their missionary operations a hundred per cent, making the number ten instead of five. A committee was appointed to address a circular letter to the pastors "laying before them the importance of more decided and efficient action in behalf of the Convention, and requesting them to present its claims to their congregations and take up collections in favor of its funds."

In the report on General Agent, the committee says of Home (State) Missions: "Our cause is the cause of the patriot." They declare that State Missions stands for law and order, public, individual and party interest, and purity of elections." Speaking of the work done in the State the committee says: "And yet your committee have found it difficult to devise a plan by which all parts of the State shall have an equal amount of preaching." Every Board which has met since has been confronted by that same difficulty.

The Committee on Home (State) Missions recommended that one missionary be appointed to labor wholly within the bounds of the Chowan Association, "and half of his time to be spent on each side of the Chowan River;" that another be placed within the bounds of the Neuse and Tar River Associations; another to supply the Goshen and Cape Fear Associations; and that two others occupy the remaining portion of the State. The committee, while appreciating the need for a greatly increased missionary force, did

not feel justified in recommending the appointment of more than five. As is shown above after an enthusiastic discussion of the report, the Convention decided to double the number of missionaries, and the report was amended by making the number ten instead of five.

Since the last Convention the name of Wake Forest Institute has been changed to Wake Forest College.

The Convention adjourned to meet at Johnston Liberty, in Johnston County, with the understanding that three consecutive sessions would be held at that place. No reason for this condition is stated, but it is likely that the entertainment was in "camp-meeting" style, and they did not want to go to the trouble of providing tents or booths to be used only one year. Time of meeting changed from November to October.

JOHNSTON LIBERTY, JOHNSTON COUNTY, OCTOBER
2-5, 1840.

Matthew T. Yates was presented as a candidate for reception as a beneficiary. Having passed a satisfactory examination he was appointed a beneficiary and sent to Wake Forest College.

Samuel Wait had represented the Convention as General Agent while traveling in the interest of Wake Forest College. Dr. Wait, in his report to the Board, says he believes genuine co-operation of the churches could be secured if they were given correct information. It was not in his power to devote the whole of the past year to the business of the agency,

but in the time he could give it he visited Duplin, Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Wayne, Johnston, Cumberland, Green, Pitt, Edgecombe, Nash, Halifax, Northampton, Warren, Granville, Person, Caswell, Orange, Guilford, Davidson, Randolph, Chatham, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Iredell and Davie. This appears to be a pretty fair amount of work for part of a year, considering the fact that this traveling was done by private conveyance.

This seems to have been a rather tame Convention. Nothing of marked importance is recorded, and there is an apparent lack of spirit and enthusiasm. There has been a great falling off in interest in regard to State Missions. It will be recalled that, at the meeting before this there was great enthusiasm, and the Board was instructed to employ ten missionaries. The Board met in June following the last Convention, and the brief record in the minutes would indicate that the enthusiasm of the Convention of '39 had largely died away. At that meeting the Board appointed two missionaries to labor until the meeting of the Convention. At the Convention we are now considering (1840) no recommendation was made as to the number of missionaries. That matter seems to have been left to the judgment of the Board. At the meeting of the Board, which was held in Raleigh in November, 1840, it was "Resolved, That we engage for eighteen months, missionary services during the ensuing year, all of which will be employed immediately preceding the session of the Convention."

It would seem by this that the brethren determined to try the spasmodic, high-pressure method. This one experiment appears to have cured them effectually, for we read nothing of this sort again for many years.

There was a decided drop in contributions to all the regular objects of the Convention. At this session the Treasurer's report shows very little more contributed than was received by the Treasurer the first year after the organization of the Convention. This would be very discouraging if nothing else had been done; but it must not be forgotten that Wake Forest was drawing on the denomination. This very year Dr. Wait collected for Wake Forest in cash and good subscriptions, \$4,630.56—four times as much as the Treasurer reported as contributed during any one year to the objects of the Convention. Wake Forest had its own treasurer, and his figures do not appear in the minutes, but we know that the first brick building had been erected at a cost of \$14,000, and other funds had been collected for the college.

JOHNSTON LIBERTY, OCTOBER 15-18, 1841.

The American Baptist Publication and Sunday School Society, which has just been founded, is warmly commended.

The Foreign Mission tide is rising. W. H. Jordan made a great speech on Foreign Missions, after which the Missionary hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," was sung, and W. H. Jordan led in prayer for God's blessings on this department of the work.

Thomas Meredith says he will be forced to suspend the publication of the *Recorder*, as it is not being supported.

“Resolved, That we consider it to the interest of our denomination, that a Baptist religious periodical shall be published in our State.

“Resolved, That we recommend to the Baptists of the State to form an organization to sustain a religious periodical.”

The stock company was not formed at that time, but the Convention adopted substantially this same resolution in 1900, the stock company was formed in February, 1901, and the marked improvement of the paper since that time is a complete vindication of the wisdom of the fathers, for we are only carrying out the plans which they formulated sixty years before, as to the management of the paper.

The missionaries for the first time are asked to give verbal reports of their work. It appears from the record that State Missions is in debt to Foreign Missions, due, perhaps, to an overdraft in order to pay the missionaries. This matter was brought up at the last Convention, as the following resolution shows, though no record of it can be found in the minutes of 1840:

“Resolved, That \$200 be appropriated from the Home Mission to the Foreign Mission fund, as directed at the last session of the Convention.

“Resolved further, That the balance of the Home Mission fund be divided *pro rata* amongst the mis-

sionaries, with the assurance that they shall be paid in full out of the first moneys that come to hand."

At the Convention following this, a committee was appointed to ascertain why Home (State) Missions was in debt to Foreign Missions. If that committee ever reported, there is no record of it. The sum of \$150 was loaned to the Convention, in order that they might pay the missionaries balance on their salaries. This money was loaned by individuals and was promptly paid back, as the Treasurer's report to the next Convention shows.

In the report on Home Missions we find this expression: "We regard, therefore, the Home Missions as the ground-work and support of all the other objects of benevolent effort."

J. J. Finch presented quite a full and valuable report on Foreign Missions. He gives the fields occupied, with the number of missionaries and native helpers on each field.

Johnston Liberty Church agreed to relinquish its claim on the Convention, for its next session to be held with them, on the condition that whenever they ask for the Convention after 1843, it will go to them.

MEHERRIN CHURCH, HERTFORD COUNTY, OCTOBER
14-18, 1842.

Alfred Dockery being absent when the Convention convened, T. Meredith was elected President.

The Home Mission Society proposed to appropriate \$250 to the Raleigh Church, to aid in securing

the services of Rev. Lewis DuPre. (This, by the way, is the first time that the prefix "Rev." occurs in the minutes). The committee unanimously accepted this proposition.

The *Recorder* had suspended, and a committee was appointed to confer with Elder Meredith upon the expediency and probability of publishing a weekly paper. Mr. Meredith told them that he expected to resume the publication of the *Recorder and Watchman* about January 1st.

This was a Foreign Mission jubilee year. Fifty years ago William Carey went out as a missionary. A mass-meeting on Foreign Missions was arranged for Sunday. The committee on Religious Exercises were instructed to select three speakers to make addresses in connection with the missionary sermon. T. Meredith made the opening address, followed by W. H. Jordan, who preached the sermon, and he was followed by J. J. Finch, E. Kingsford and S. Wait. Would a twentieth century congregation have lived through it?

At this session the North Carolina Baptist Historical Society was organized.

Miss Clara Tillman made a bequest of \$100 to State Missions "to apply to the religious instruction of the people residing on Bay River, Craven County, N. C."

S. Justice made a bequest to Foreign Missions—amount not stated.

Some sort of plan for the "confederation" of Wake Forest College and Furman Theological Institution was proposed by the South Carolina Convention and unanimously approved by our Convention. What the nature of this proposition was, the record does not say.

The Committee on Statistics published list of Associations, when constituted, number of churches, total membership, white and colored. A list of the Baptist ministers in the State was also published. There were at that time (1842) 32,725 Baptists in the State, white and colored, and 302 ministers. There were 36 Associations, ten of which were anti-missionary; 26,235 members in Missionary Association, and 6,490 anti-missionaries.

There seems to have been a sad decline in State Missions. For some cause the Board was in debt. Only three missionaries were appointed for the next year, and they to serve only four months each, which was equivalent to one missionary for a year. An appeal was made to the Baptists of the State in behalf of the Church at Raleigh, to pay off a mortgage which rested on the property.

BOILING SPRINGS CAMP GROUND, OCTOBER
13-17, 1843.

State Missions still lag. For two years no agent has been in the field. At a meeting of the Board, which was held after the last Convention, Elder N. A. Purefoy was elected agent, but he served only part of a year. At this session Mr. Purefoy was elected

agent for the ensuing year at a salary of \$300. The three missionaries who labored four months each, reported great meetings, many conversions and ripe harvests. Opposition is dying away, and the missionaries were warmly welcomed wherever they went. The Board reports the opportunities greater than ever, and would recommend the appointment of a larger number of missionaries than had ever been employed, if the fund at their disposal justified it. As it is, they recommend that only two missionaries be appointed for four months each. This is a retrenchment of thirty-three and a third per cent. Two supervisory committees were appointed, one for the East, the other for the West. These committees were composed of three members each, and they were to "superintend missionary labor." Their duties seem to have been about the same as those of Associational Executive Committees, though their fields were much larger.

Elder James S. Purefoy is Treasurer of the Convention. His reports are very clear and business-like.

The minutes of this session show, unmistakably, a painful indifference on the part of the Baptists of the State in regard to the work of the Convention. The agent, in his report, sums up the situation in this short sentence: "There appears to be but little opposition to the objects of the Convention, and but little in favor of them."

RALEIGH, OCTOBER 18-23, 1844.

Thomas Meredith had been President for the past two sessions. Alfred Dockery is elected President again.

J. C. Furman, J. B. Jeter, Elias Dodson, and J. L. Pritchard are present for the first time.

In the report on education, Wake Forest College, Furman Theological Institution and Milton Female Seminary are endorsed and recommended. The latter to open January next under the supervision of Rev. E. W. West.

A committee is appointed to confer with the Western brethren as to the best means of co-operating with the Convention. State Missions is gaining some. Four missionaries are appointed for next year.

The following important recommendations were made by the Committee on Sunday Schools: "Your committee would also recommend that the editor of the *Biblical Recorder* be requested to establish in his excellent paper, a special department for Sabbath Schools. The following resolutions are also presented:

"Resolved, That the importance of the moral and religious instruction of the rising generation has not been duly appreciated.

"Resolved, That pastors and churches be affectionately urged to make more vigorous efforts to organize and sustain Sabbath Schools."

Elder John Armstrong has passed away since the last meeting of the Convention. He attended every

session of the Convention from its organization until the meeting in 1838. That year he spent in Europe, taking a special course of study. At the Convention of 1839 he preached the introductory sermon, and left very soon afterward for Columbus, Mississippi, at which place he died in 1844. Dr. Hufham informs me that he went to Columbus to become professor in the University of Mississippi, to which position he was elected soon after his return from Europe. The following beautiful tribute was written by his life-long friend, James McDaniel: "He was prominent in the little band that originated the Convention and subsequently the college, and bore a distinguished part in carrying them forward. For a time he filled the chair of Ancient Languages in the college. He was the refined gentleman, the accomplished scholar, the profound theologian, the powerful preacher, the eminent Christian. His piety was of pure and elevated character. But few have passed a career of greater usefulness and distinction, or have closed it more generally lamented."

RALEIGH, OCTOBER 17-21, 1845.

The Southern Baptist Convention was organized four months before this.

"Resolved, That the Convention cordially approve the formation of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the appointment of a Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va., and a Home Mission Board at Marion, Alabama, and that we recommend the churches to contribute liberally to these funds."

A resolution was passed approving the formation of the Western Convention. This Convention was organized at Boiling Springs Camp Ground, Henderson County, August 30, 1845.

A resolution was passed urging the importance of establishing schools, "both male and female, under the patronage of the Baptist denomination."

The Board sees that a mistake has been made in neglecting the towns. "One fact has surprised the mind of every observing man who has noticed our operations for years past. It is the culpable neglect we have been guilty of in not providing our towns and county-seats with means of the Gospel."

RALEIGH, OCTOBER 15-20, 1846.

It will be observed that the Convention was held in Raleigh three years in succession. No reason for this is given in the records, but two probable explanations have been suggested to the writer. One is that the Baptists were not strong enough in any other community at that time to entertain the Convention, and the other is that Raleigh was the most accessible point in the State because of railroad and stage-coach lines. The latter impresses me as the more probable explanation.

Thomas Meredith was elected President at this session.

The Constitution was amended so as to provide for three boards—"the Home (State) Mission Board, located at Raleigh; the Foreign Mission Board,

located at Yanceyville; and the Board of Education, located at Wake Forest College."

Foreign Missions is the keynote of this Convention. Matthew T. Yates had been appointed missionary to China, and the Raleigh Association assumed his support. Yates was ordained Sunday night. T. Meredith preached the sermon from II Tim., 4:2: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine." The charge was delivered by J. B. Taylor, the Bible presented by R. Furman, and the right-hand of fellowship extended by S. Wait.

After the ordination, twenty individuals gave five dollars each to go to the support of Mr. Yates, and others added smaller amounts, making the total a hundred and thirty dollars.

The minutes of this session contain by far the most able and exhaustive report of the Board yet submitted. It covers twelve pages in the minutes, and is a brief review of the sixteen years of the Convention's life. During these sixteen years Wake Forest College has been established and several ministers educated, among them a missionary to China. A denominational paper had been published, "which has done more, perhaps, than any single instrumentality to disseminate correct sentiments among our people." The Convention "has sent the Gospel to many destitute sections, established many new churches, strengthened many feeble ones, and turned multitudes of

sinner into the way of life." Yet some had grown impatient and become lukewarm. "They expected the Board in a few years would succeed in filling every pulpit and supplying every community with an intelligent minister. Many have not the patience to wait the slow operations of Providence in developing great works."

The importance of the agency was emphasized. It was difficult to get a man with all the necessary qualifications. "There is no part in our operations of greater importance than the agency; it is the fly-wheel of all our machinery. * * * Under present circumstances an effective agency is indispensable to the success of our plans." "We think the proper course is to direct our attention exclusively to destitute sections and feeble churches. As the destitution is beyond the present means of supply, we think the true policy is to cultivate, thoroughly, the most needy important fields first. Special attention ought first to be given to the towns, and then the most suitable places in the country." Edenton, Windsor, Greensboro, and Salisbury are named as important points. State rather than Associational Missions, the Board considers the true policy. "The Board are of the opinion that it is best for the churches to be made auxiliaries to the Convention as far as possible. It may be necessary sometimes to adopt other modes of operation; but we are decidedly of opinion that this is the best plan as a general thing. It will save time and trouble. It certainly is as convenient to send

funds that may be raised by a church to the Treasurer of the Convention as it is to send them to some other organization, to be forwarded by them to the Convention. And when the Convention is placed so far in the distance, and has to be reached through intervening organizations, its claims will not be seen so clearly nor met so promptly as when they are laid directly before every church." This is a magnificent report. Nothing like it has appeared in the minutes since the great address of Meredith, which was published in the minutes just after the organization of the Convention. The report was written, no doubt, by J. J. Finch, who was Recording and Corresponding Secretary that year.

Elder Mark Bennett labored as a missionary in the Kehukee Association. This was an anti-Missionary Association. His report shows that the field was a hard one and he was somewhat discouraged. Hear him: "The professing community of all denominations exhibits generally a mournful state of declension. Many of the preachers possess scarcely a single qualification of a bishop, especially of the anti order, and many churches tolerate dram-drinking to that excess that half the number of white male members are given daily to intoxication." The opposition of the anti-missionaries is so great that he hardly knows what to recommend, but is convinced that it is unnecessary for him to labor among them any more.

The Treasurer reports \$1,938.86 for missions and education. This is nearly twice as much as had been reported for any previous year.

CHAPTER III.

1847—1860.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, OCTOBER 14-18, 1847.

T. Meredith declined re-election as President and Alfred Dockery was elected.

Three Boards were appointed last year, but the plan did not work well and the Boards were, at this session, consolidated under the old name, "Board of Managers." The Convention was in debt to its missionaries and the Treasurer was authorized to borrow money and pay them the balance due. The reports from the missionaries were encouraging. John Robertson, who had labored in Stokes, Wilkes, Guilford, Rockingham and Surry, reported one hundred persons baptized and thirty or forty awaiting baptism. Mark May, whose field was in the Yadkin, reported one hundred and forty baptisms. R. I. Devin reported large accessions in the East River Association, and E. Dodson in the Beulah. Samuel Wait, who preached at Louisburg last year, reports that the house of worship, which was a mere shell, is undergoing repairs, and, on the whole, he finds much more to encourage him than he expected at the beginning of the year. J. J. James preached once a month at Greensboro, for which he received \$50 from the Board. "A Sabbath School has been established and the prospect of organizing a church is quite encouraging." The importance of

doing a more permanent work has evidently gotten hold of the minds of the brethren. While they do some evangelistic work, we shall see that more and more they are concentrating their efforts on certain important points.

J. J. James was appointed agent for Foreign Missions by the Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, but this must have created some friction, for at the next Convention Mr. James introduced a resolution requesting the Board at Richmond not to appoint a special agent for North Carolina without the consent of our Convention or Board of Managers.

The following brethren were appointed the first trustees of the Convention: Thos. Settle, Alfred Dockery, Chas. W. Skinner, Calvin Graves, John Kerr, David S. Williams, Dr. G. C. Moore.

J. J. Finch, of Raleigh, "made a statement to the Convention relative to Sedgwick Female Seminary in that city." The Convention passed resolutions endorsing the enterprise.

ROCKFORD, SURRY COUNTY, OCTOBER 12-16, 1848.

Alfred Dockery again elected President, making the time he served as President, twelve years in all.

A resolution was passed requesting the churches to observe the first day in January as a day of fasting and prayer for a revival in the State and throughout the world. The missionaries who did evangelistic work in several Associations reported a number of baptisms, though not so many as the year before. Elder Dodson says: "As I passed through the State I

did everything I could for the press because my experience for the last ten years has taught me that where there was an indifference to the press, there was generally an indifference to all other important objects, or less interest manifested in them all."

Elder James reports that there are fifteen members in the town of Greensboro who are formed into an arm of the Madison Church. They expect to procure a comfortable house of worship soon. He adds that "Greensboro is a flourishing town of 2,000 inhabitants and, as a missionary station, promises as much as any other in the State."

The Convention is now beginning to reap some of the fruit of its contributions to ministerial education. Matthew T. Yates, a beneficiary of the Board, had a little while before this sailed to China, and Wm. Jones, who was the first beneficiary of the Board, was at this Convention (1848) elected agent, in which position he was held for a number of years. Four months after the meeting of the last Convention, he was elected by the Board, and served eight months. The coming of Wm. Jones into this office gave a new impulse to all our denominational work. He was able, resourceful and energetic, and peculiarly fitted for the work of the agency.

OXFORD, GRANVILLE COUNTY, OCTOBER 18-22, 1849.

James McDaniel was elected President at this session, and served continuously until 1867, a term of eighteen years. No other President of the Convention has ever served so long.

The first account of any marked division of sentiment is interesting. The report of the Board of managers was under discussion. "Prof. White moved to strike out that portion of the same which related to the establishment of a Female College, which motion provoked some discussion; the report, as it stood, being advocated by Messrs. Palmer, James, McDowell, and Purefoy, and opposed by Messrs. White, Meredith, Finch, and Trotman. The motion was lost, and the report accepted and ordered to be published with the minutes." Turning to the report of the Board, we find the clause which caused the discussion. "Female schools of a high character have been established and are now in successful operation at Murfreesboro, Raleigh, Oxford and other places. The necessity of establishing a Female College for the State, of an elevated character, in which suitable testimonials of a high grade of scholarship will be awarded, is seriously entertained by many of our brethren, and is an object worthy of their united and zealous efforts for its establishment." It was the last clause of this paragraph which Prof. White (President of Wake Forest) proposed to strike out.

If this suggestion had been carried out we would have had, just fifty years earlier, the Baptist University for Women. In 1835 a report was submitted recommending the establishment of a Seminary in Raleigh. The school then spoken of, was in operation at this time, as we see from this very report; but the

suggestion here is for a school of "elevated character," with "a high grade of scholarship." Note that this recommendation was made by the Board of Managers, which corresponds to our Board of Missions. Our fathers believed that between Mission work and Christian education, there is the closest possible relation. The report was written, no doubt, by W. J. Palmer, who signs it as secretary.

There was a great Foreign Mission mass-meeting Sunday night; Rev. J. T. Owen, an appointee of the Foreign Mission Board, was present. He related his call to the foreign field, and gave a description of the field to which he was going. "His appearance and earnestness of manner enlisted a strong feeling of sympathy in his behalf and deep interest in the success of his mission." At the conclusion of the exercises, Mr. Owen stood on the platform and the congregation passed forward to give him the parting hand.

A. M. Poindexter was present, representing the American Baptist Publication Society.

W. T. Walters was appointed missionary to Salisbury, Mocksville, Charlotte and Statesville. The Board appointed eleven missionaries. The Raleigh Church applied for aid, but application was denied for want of funds. An application from the Tar River Church was also declined, because of more pressing needs elsewhere.

The constitution was so amended as to make any person who contributed as much as \$30 at one time

to its funds, a life member of the Convention, provided he continued a member in good standing in the Baptist church to which he belongs.

LOUISBURG, OCTOBER 17-21, 1850.

Elder J. J. James offered the following resolution, which was adopted unanimously:

“Whereas, It is in contemplation to establish a Female Seminary of high character in the town of Oxford, in this State, to be under the control of the Baptist denomination; and,

“Whereas, such a measure is deemed highly important to our denominational interest, and to female education in general; therefore,

“Resolved, That this Convention concur in the propriety of establishing such an institution, and agree to give way at a suitable hour, for a public meeting to be held for the promotion of that enterprise.”

The churches of the State are urged to establish schools for the oral instruction of the colored people.

The Board appropriated \$100 to aid the Church in Raleigh, and asked the Home Board for \$200. Rev. Thomas W. Tobey, of Virginia, a returned missionary, had accepted a call to become pastor of the church.

The report on obituaries records the death of Rev. J. J. Finch, one of the giants of those early days. Rev. W. H. Merritt, who had not attended the Convention for several years, because of feeble health, but

who was deeply interested in the Convention and its work, as is shown by the fact that he bequeathed \$2,000 to ministerial education, and General Barzillai Graves, Chairman of the Board of Managers, and an honored and useful layman, have both died since last Convention.

The Treasurer's report shows total contributions, \$3, 343.81, an increase of more than 75 per cent over last year. Wm. Jones is an active agent.

WILMINGTON, OCTOBER 16-20, 1851.

State Missions and the *Recorder* occupy the time and attention of this Convention in a large measure. The report of the Board of Managers is interesting. Fourteen missionaries were employed last year, who received their salaries in part or in whole from the Associations in which they labored. Besides these a few missionaries were placed at important points and sustained by the Board. It seems to have been a fruitful year, and yet the Board is somewhat discouraged and recommends retrenchment. They complain that appeals to the pastors have evoked but little response. They recommend the discontinuance of a general agent. "The reports of Elder William Jones, the agent of the Convention, show a falling off in the amounts of his receipts and subscriptions in behalf of the committee." They find no evidence of less effort on the part of the agent, but attribute it to a desire of the churches and Associations to send up their own funds through their delegates. Turning

from the report of the Board to that of the Treasurer, we find that more money had been received this year than during any previous year. The total contributions for the objects of the Convention amount to \$4,332.82. The Board made the mistake of measuring the success of the agent by the amount of money that passed through his hands, forgetting that his canvass had much to do with increasing the spirit of benevolence among the people. For this reason they recommend that the best agent the Convention had ever had up to that time, be dismissed. The Convention, however, refused to adopt this recommendation of the Board and re-elected William Jones as agent.

In speaking of the old Chowan Association, the mother of the Convention, Mr. Jones says: "This body takes the lead in benevolent operations, besides supplying their own destitution, and making arrangements to sustain a missionary in China, they continue to enlarge their bounty for the objects of the Convention."

Since the last Convention Thomas Meredith has died. Elder Thomas W. Tobey, pastor of the Church in Raleigh, was asked to edit the *Recorder* until the meeting of the Convention. This he did very acceptably. A committee was appointed, presumably at the request of Mrs. Meredith, to suggest an editor for the *Recorder*. The committee, of which William Hooper was chairman, recommended that Elder Tobey be continued as editor, the compensation for his services

to be agreed on by him and the proprietors. This shows the close relation which has always existed between the Convention and its organ. Elder James McDaniel, of Wilmington, and C. R. Hendrickson, of Elizabeth City, each of whom had been engaged in the publication of Baptist newspapers, relinquished their publications and, so far as they could, transferred the lists of subscribers to the *Recorder*.

Elder Samuel Wait writes a letter to this Convention, notifying them of the opening of Oxford Female Seminary. The Chowan Institute had begun its useful career before this.

The report on obituaries, written by A. Paul Repiton, records the death of "Rev. Thomas Meredith, Rev. Geo. M. Thompson, Rev. Stephen Grey and Deacon Lewis Bond."

"Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the Baptists in the State to unite in the erection of a house in Shanghai, to be called the North Carolina Baptist Mission House." This was a home for Dr. Yates.

SMITHFIELD, JOHNSTON COUNTY, OCTOBER 14-18,
1852.

Education seems to be the keynote of this Convention. The first thousand dollars is given for an endowment of Wake Forest College. This was given by ten men in subscriptions of \$100 each, and was in response to a proposition by Elias Dodson to raise \$15,000 in \$100 subscriptions. The names

of the ten brethren who gave this first \$1,000 are not recorded.

Chowan Institute and Oxford Seminary are highly commended.

“Resolved, That each Association be and is hereby respectfully requested to establish preparatory schools to Wake Forest College, and report the same to this Convention.”

High ground is taken on Foreign Missions, at a mass-meeting Sunday night. Enthusiastic and inspiring speeches were made, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That we will not suffer any apparent want of success in our (State) Missions to diminish our zeal or cause us to slacken our efforts to benefit the unhappy and benighted heathen.”

William Jones, the General Agent, has died since last Convention. He did more to stimulate the benevolence of the churches than any other man. He inaugurated the “Life Membership” plan, and introduced a better financial system. As general agent he did a great work. The Board seems almost to have gone daft on the subject of destroying the agency. In this report they suggest that no agent be employed. They say that Virginia had abolished the agency and was getting on well without it. We know, however, that Virginia has come back to the North Carolina plan, and came to North Carolina to get her first agent, or “Field Secretary,” as they designated him. The Convention did not adopt this recommendation,

but intrusted the Board to employ an agent as soon as a suitable man could be found. The Treasurer's report last year showed a total contribution of \$4,333.82, while this year it is only \$2,661.11, a difference of \$1,672.71. It must not be forgotten that the general agent had died, and that for most of the year the Convention was without an agent. This, doubtless, accounts for the falling off in contributions. Yet in the face of these figures, the Board desires to dispense with the agency.

Rev. J. J. James introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

"In view of the demoralizing influence of circus exhibitions throughout the State,

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to memorialize the Legislature of North Carolina on the subject of putting down the evil in that way, which, to them, may seem best."

The *Recorder* is still edited by Rev. T. W. Tobey, and is constantly referred to as the "Organ of the Convention."

NEW BERN, OCTOBER 13-17, 1853.

Elder John H. Lacy, who had been for several years Corresponding Secretary of the Convention, was appointed a missionary to Africa, and sailed since the last session of the Convention. A collection was taken on Sunday morning for Foreign Missions amounting to \$151, and at night at the close of a mass-meeting, held in the interest of Home Missions

and education, another collection of \$162 was taken. It is noticeable that the collections taken on Sunday in this period of the Convention's life, are out of proportion to the amount raised during the year, when compared with the financial reports of our day.

Mrs. Meredith requested that the Convention appoint an editor for the *Recorder*. The committee named Rev. J. J. James. This recommendation was adopted and Mr. James entered upon his duties as editor.

In their report the Board states that Rev. S. J. Yarborough had been secured as agent. He was not employed till three months before the meeting of the Convention. He was elected by the committee for next year. The Board further declare that if they could find suitable men and had the means to support them, they might employ thirty missionaries and all the destitution in North Carolina would not be supplied.

The name of Rev. W. M. Wingate appears for the first time.

FAYETTEVILLE, OCTOBER 12-16, 1854.

The subject of education received special consideration at this Convention. Saturday night a great educational mass-meeting was held. A collection was taken up at the close of this meeting amounting to \$140.66. The report on education states that Wake Forest has an endowment fund of \$42,000, and bequests to ministerial education amounting to more

than \$10,000. Resolution is passed expressing gratitude at the news that an associational school has been established at Taylorsville.

Friday night a mass-meeting was held in the interest of Home Missions, and a collection of \$151.50 was taken. Bear in mind that during all this period Home Missions means State Missions. Committee on New Fields recommend that Goldsboro, Charlotte, Carthage, Lumberton and Washington be occupied, in addition to the towns now supplied by the Board, viz: Greensboro, Salisbury and Wadesboro. All these places now have strong churches save Washington, which is still aided by the Board.

A church extension society was organized. Its object was to aid weak points in building houses of worship. Funds are to be raised and loaned to needy points, provided said places raise an equal amount. It was recommended that steps be taken to raise \$100 to be loaned to Salisbury, provided they comply with the conditions on which loans are to be made.

A resolution was passed looking to closer co-operation with the Associations. At almost every meeting for several years past, a similar resolution has been adopted.

From the report on Periodicals we learn that Mrs. Meredith had "moved to the Southwest," and had sold five-sixths of the *Recorder* stock to brethren in Raleigh. James was employed to edit the paper.

The brethren saw the importance of preserving the

history of the Convention, as the following resolution shows:

“Whereas, We understand that our brother, Dr. S. J. Wheeler, of Murfreesboro, has it in contemplation to publish a history of the Convention, to be compiled from the minutes of the body from its formation to the present time; therefore,

“Resolved, That we highly approve the enterprise, and most heartily commend it to the patronage of our churches and brethren throughout the State.”

If this history was ever published, there is no record of it.

WARRENTON, NOVEMBER 7-12, 1855.

Home (State) Missions received special consideration at this Convention. On “New Fields” Elder Dodson says: “We have neglected towns, though we have done a great deal in the country. We lose much by neglecting towns and villages. People are more liberal in the support of ministers in towns than in the country. A man worth two or three thousand dollars in a town, frequently gives more than another in the country who is worth \$100,000. In a certain city a poor man who had a salary of \$400, and a family to support, gave his pastor \$100. Where can we find such liberality in the country?”

From the report of the Board we get the following items of interest:

Robert B. Jones had preached two Sundays each month in Charlotte. Church organized and contract

let for house of worship. A. B. Blackwell once a month at Wadesboro. J. J. James twice a month at Goldsboro. Small organization, but no house. H. Lennon one Sunday afternoon in each month at Lumberton. Wingate and Walters one Sunday each at Franklinton. No house. W. T. Brooks once a month at Henderson. No organization and no house. Thomas Lansdell at Tarboro. Greensboro was not supplied. B. F. Marable was appointed missionary there, but declined in order to go to Furman Theological Institute. Tarboro is the only one of the above points still aided by the Board.

Committee on Agency recommend that no general agent be employed for next year. This report was adopted, and the general agency was abolished, never to be established again under that name.

This seems to have been an uninteresting Convention, perhaps the dullest yet held. You will read now of the most remarkable session in the Convention's history.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 5-10, 1856.

In many respects this was the greatest session of the Convention ever held before or since. At this memorable meeting it was very evident that the denomination was beginning to feel the "hidings of its power." It laid aside forever the "swaddling clothes of infancy;" the "day of small things" is left behind, and the admonition of Paul to the Corinthians, "be ye also enlarged," is to be the watchword of the North Carolina Baptists in the future.

This item from the *Recorder* of January 1, 1896, tells the story: "The greatest money-raising meeting of our Convention occurred in 1856 at Raleigh; \$25,125 was raised for Wake Forest College, \$800 for Home Missions, \$637.40 for Foreign Missions, \$485.80 for ministerial education, and \$13,650 for the Baptist Church in Raleigh."

No Convention since has reached this in its magnificent giving, for every dollar of their pledge, we are told, was paid. Fifty thousand dollars had been secured prior to this Convention, for the endowment of Wake Forest College. Elder John Mitchell (mentioned for the first time) was employed as agent for Wake Forest. He was to collect the pledges made at this Convention, and to solicit other funds. The hope was entertained that the endowment might reach \$100,000.

Dr. Wingate, who wrote the report on Home Missions, says that the destitution in the State was never felt so much as now, because of internal improvements. Railroads were being built, and towns were going up along these lines of roads.

I have only given a brief, general outline of this great Convention. It was a meeting of remarkable spiritual power. Dr. Skinner, who was present, informed me that it was indescribable. Men wept and laughed and prayed and sang, and all felt as Peter did on the Mount, that it was good to be there.

The Clerk reports Elder James McDaniel, in some

remarks in opening the Convention, as saying that he was the only member present of those who were at the formation of the body. His co-laborers in that work which he regarded as one of the happiest incidents in his life, had "gone to their rest above." Mr. McDaniel was evidently mistaken, or the Clerk reported him incorrectly. Mr. C. W. Skinner, Sr., who was present at the formation of the Convention, was at this great Convention of '56, and was very much alive, as he contributed the largest sums to Wake Forest College and the Raleigh Church. Samuel Wait and P. W. Dowd, who were at the organization of the Convention (P. W. Dowd being the first President), did not die until ten years after this. At this time they had not "gone to their rest above." I think it far more probable that Mr. McDaniel was incorrectly reported than that he was mistaken about a matter of this kind.

HERTFORD, NOVEMBER 4-9, 1857.

Gratifying progress has been made at some points. Charlotte has a church of fifty-three members and a house of worship finished and paid for. A missionary is sadly needed at Wilkesboro. Great destitution in Pamlico Association. Twenty-seven churches and fifteen of them closed for want of preachers. Churches a prey to designing men, "false teachers," who come in among them. Buncombe County very destitute of Missionary Baptist preaching. Committee on new fields recommended Hamilton, Carthage,

Statesville and Plymouth, in addition to those already occupied.

Elder John Mitchell reports a fine year's work for the endowment. Forty-five thousand dollars has been collected, leaving \$5,000 of the amount they set out to raise. The five thousand was raised in connection with the discussion of report on the endowment. The rest of the evening was spent in prayer and thanksgiving. This completes the first \$100,000 of endowment. There were ten ministerial students at Wake Forest last year.

The following high schools were established last year: Warsaw, property and fixtures worth \$5,000; Raleigh Associational School at Holly Springs, cost not known; Beulah Associational School at Madison, cost \$2,000; L. H. Shuck, Principal.

After a sermon Sunday morning by J. L. Pritchard, a collection was taken for Foreign Missions amounting to \$359.20.

A committee, which had been appointed for the purpose, reported that a monument had been erected at the grave of Thomas Meredith at a cost of \$200.

A resolution was passed requesting Elder J. J. James to gather the minutes of the Convention from the time of its formation, and have them bound. This he must have been unable to do.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 10-15, 1858.

This is a great Foreign Mission meeting. M. T.

Yates has returned from China and is present at this Convention. His speech stirred the hearts of the brethren, and they passed strong resolutions urging the churches to do more for Foreign Missions. A collection was taken for Foreign Missions amounting to \$422.25.

Dr. Boyce is here in the interest of the Theological Seminary, for the establishment of which funds are being raised. The handsome sum of \$5,000 was given in cash and pledges. The list is headed by T. E. Skinner, with a gift of \$500. A. E. Dickenson is also here representing the Foreign Mission Board. He and Elder Reuben Jones stir the Convention on the subject of colportage work, and the brethren determine to do something. I have no doubt the reader will share in the pleasure the writer experienced in reading the following resolution:

“Resolved, That we hereafter denominate our State missionary operations, ‘State Missions,’ in distinction from the ‘Domestic Missions of the Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.’ It has been awkward to speak of State Missions as ‘Home Missions.’”

It will be recalled that the Board was bent on abolishing the agency. Hear them now: “Your Board have had no General Agent during the year, hoping that the churches throughout the State would contribute to the funds of the Convention, so as to obviate the necessity of the labor and expense of an agent. But in this we have been disappointed. We, therefore, commend to the Convention the considera-

tion of this subject, and await an expression of your views." The Committee on the Agency reported recommending to the Convention, the employment of a General Agent, who should also be the Corresponding Secretary of the Board, and known by that title. This recommendation was adopted. Heretofore the Corresponding Secretary was some pastor, who did the correspondence and office work connected with our missionary operations. He received no compensation, but his expenses were all paid. Having less than a thousand dollars to disburse, and from five to ten missionaries with whom to correspond, it will be seen that his duties were not onerous. The General Agent was a sort of Field Secretary, who traveled through the State, presenting the objects of the Convention and seeking to deepen the spirit of benevolence. At this Convention the two offices were combined, and that arrangement still continues.

A. J. Emerson was elected Corresponding Secretary. R. H. Griffith says that we should raise at least \$8,000 for State Missions.

A complaint is made that one denomination has practically monopolized the chaplaincy of the U. S. Army. Committee appointed to memorialize Congress in regard to the matter.

Collection was taken for Asheville Church, amounting to \$435.55.

CHARLOTTE, NOVEMBER 2-7, 1859.

J. B. Richardson is here from Wake Forest, where he is a ministerial student, and J. H. Mills from Oxford Female Seminary.

J. D. Hufham makes his first speech before the Convention, on the subject of Foreign Missions.

A. M. Lewis, Esq., states that a site has been purchased in Raleigh "for the purpose of erecting and establishing a denominational female school of high order."

The following report on periodicals evoked a lively discussion:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that Elder James has the ability to make the *Recorder* such a paper as will meet the wants of our denomination in this State.

"That Elder James be recommended to enlarge the *Recorder* at least one column on each page.

"That he employ an additional editor, or a sufficient number of contributors, either in or out of the State, and that we pledge our hearty support to the paper, provided these recommendations be complied with by the editor."

Mr. James agreed to comply with these recommendations, and the report was adopted.

Elder John Mitchell preached at Greensboro as a Missionary of the Board, and established a church with fifteen members. Heretofore it had been an arm of the Madison Church. The Board did some

colportage work last year for the first time. Elder J. S. Purefoy was superintendent of colportage. The Board complains that the Associations work independently and will not report their work. "This presents scarcely a tithe of Mission work done in the State, because the Associations will not report their work."

"Resolved, That we make an effort to raise 25 cents per head from all our churches for State Missions and 10 cents per head for education."

If we were raising that amount per capita to-day, we would receive \$50,000 for State Missions and \$20,000 for education.

GOLDSBORO, OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 3, 1860.

N. B. Cobb and W. R. Gwaltney attend for the first time. Rev. T. E. Skinner was received as agent for the Raleigh Female Seminary, and received for this enterprise in cash and subscriptions \$2,200.

An impostor exposed. "The attention of the Convention having been called to an impostor in Arkansas, who is using the name of a minister of this Convention, on motion the editors of the *Biblical Recorder* were requested to expose him in their paper."

A recommendation to create separate boards for the different objects of the Convention was referred to a committee. The committee recommended the continuance of the present plan of having but one Board for all objects. Elder B. F. Marable was Correspond-

ing Secretary last year. No Corresponding Secretary was secured for the next year, 1861. Colportage work was vigorously prosecuted last year. There were ten colporteurs and the results of their work were quite encouraging.

The last five years might be termed the "Golden Age" of the ante-bellum days of the Convention. In our next chapter we shall enter upon the dark and bloody period of the Civil War, and the still darker days immediately following it. As "night brings out the stars," this period of darkness reveals the heroic spirit of the brethren who composed our North Carolina Baptist Zion at that time.

CHAPTER IV.

1861—1866.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 12-18, 1861.

“On motion, a historical committee, consisting of Elders J. D. Hufham, J. L. Prichard, T. E. Skinner, S. Wait, E. Dodson, and L. H. Shuck, were appointed to collect and report to this Convention such facts connected with the past history of the denomination in the State as may be thought worthy of preservation.”

A Committee on “the State of Our Country,” composed of T. E. Skinner, W. T. Walters, and A. J. Emerson, speak in strong terms of the unjust war waged by the United States on the Confederate States. They express their gratitude that God has thus far given them the victory over their enemies, and recommend that 10 o’clock every Sabbath morning be observed as an hour of prayer for the success of our cause.

J. J. James retires from the editorship of the *Recorder* and J. D. Hufham becomes editor.

From the report of the Board we gather that everything is greatly depressed on account of war. State Missions is \$742.83 in debt. The Board recommends continuing only two missionaries, R. H. Griffith at Charlotte, and John Mitchell at Greensboro.

Ministerial education is \$670.76 in debt. A special committee was appointed on indebtedness. They re-

port the entire indebtedness to be \$1,750. This was the largest debt ever reported at a Convention up to this time. Dr. Hufham is requested to appeal to the churches through the *Recorder* in regard to the debt.

A. Broaddus is welcomed as a visitor. He comes as a representative of the Seminary and of the Home Mission Board. I presume this is Andrew Broaddus, though his coming as a representative of the Seminary is pretty strong circumstantial evidence that the record should have been J. A. instead of A. Broaddus.

Heretofore the denomination had been referred to as the Baptist Church. "On motion the phrase, 'the Baptist Church,' in the 5th and 6th articles of the Constitution, were changed to 'a Baptist Church.'"

RALEIGH, OCTOBER 28-31, 1863.

The minutes of 1862 are not in the bound volume. It is likely that, on account of the demoralized condition of affairs incident to the war, the minutes of that session were not printed. We gather from the minutes of '61 that "the Convention adjourned to meet at Wake Forest College on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in November, 1862."

There are now three Boards, the Board of Missions, Board of Education and Sunday School and Publication Board. This change was evidently made at the last Convention, of which we have no record.

The Board of Missions was located at Goldsboro, with P. D. Gold as Chairman; the Board of Educa-

tion was located at Wake Forest College. The location of the Sunday School Board is not given.

“Resolved, That the Board of Education be instructed to appoint an agent to canvass the State and solicit funds for the education of the children of indigent, deceased and disabled soldiers, to invest said funds in any way that they may deem proper and report to the next session of the body.”

Owing to the increased cost of publishing the *Recorder*, Dr. Hufham has advanced the price. In the report on periodicals, the committee says: “We are well pleased with our paper, the *Biblical Recorder*, and will endeavor to sustain it. We commend the course of the editor in increasing the price instead of diminishing the size of the paper.” The Convention, however, passed the following resolution:

“Resolved, That with a desire of avoiding an increase of the subscription price of the *Recorder*, Brother Hufham be requested to publish it on a half-sheet, or on such sized paper as will secure him remunerative compensation.” More than \$800 was pledged to send the *Recorder* to the soldiers.

State Mission work has been altogether abandoned, and everything is concentrated on army colportage. Elder N. B. Cobb is superintendent of colportage work among the soldiers, and has 23 colporteurs at work. His report shows that \$20,616.58 was contributed last year for colportage work.

Last year \$1,773.45 was contributed to Foreign Missions. Of this amount \$795 was given by Elder

R. Newton, and \$50 by Anna Newton. Dr. Hufham informs me that Anna Newton was a daughter of Elder R. Newton and that they were residents of Cumberland County.

Great revivals are reported among the soldiers, especially in the Army of Northern Virginia. No Corresponding Secretary was in the field last year. Everything is at a standstill except army colportage.

J. L. Prichard has died since the last Convention. Dr. Hufham writes a long and interesting obituary. There was an epidemic of yellow fever in Wilmington where Mr. Prichard was pastor. He was advised to leave, but stayed by his people and fell a victim to the dread disease. He died a martyr to duty. In speaking of him as a preacher, Dr. Hufham says: "His sermons were plain, pointed and practical, and free from the tinselery of rhetoric, and those extraneous ornaments, which often give a preacher notoriety, and please without edifying his hearers."

The minutes of 1864 are missing. The Convention that year was held in Warrenton, but we have no record of the proceedings.

FAYETTEVILLE, NOVEMBER 1-4, 1865.

The army colportage department has been turned into the Sunday School and Publication Board. N. B. Cobb, who was superintendent of army colportage, is now Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Board. As superintendent of army colportage, Mr. Cobb did the best work of his life. He was ad-

mirably fitted for the position, and administered the affairs of his office in a very masterful manner. His report as Sunday School Secretary makes a fine showing. The assets of this Board amounted to \$10,199.46, and the expenditures \$4,156.25, leaving balance on hand of \$6,043.89. In these assets are to be included stock left over from army colportage, amounting to \$5,143.85, and a little over \$1,300 contributed for corportage last year before the war closed.

The *Recorder* was wrecked by Sherman's Army, and had suspended for a few months, but the brethren rejoice that Elder Hufham is to resume the publication, and pledge to it a loyal support.

First mention of the North Carolina Baptist Almanac. Ten thousand copies were published last year.

An important resolution was adopted in regard to the colored people. The brethren realize that a new responsibility is thrust upon them by the emancipation of the slaves and pledge themselves to do all in their power for the religious and educational development of the negroes.

A large part of the endowment of Wake Forest College was swept away. Forty-six thousand dollars, which had been invested in Confederate bonds, was lost. Fifty-seven thousand three hundred dollars was in State bonds and individual notes, which, they hope, is safe. They take this loss in a very philosophical way, as the conclusion of the report of Com-

mittee on Endowment shows: "Your committee are of opinion that the present financial condition of Wake Forest College will compare favorably with that of any other Southern institution of learning, and that no blame should be attached to the Treasurer or Board of Trustees for the losses sustained by investing in Confederate bonds."

From April, 1862, to April, 1865, the sum of \$74,610.62 was contributed for army colportage.

W. T. Walters was elected Corresponding Secretary for the ensuing year.

The war has closed. The South is in ashes. Desolation reigns on every hand. But these fathers "gird up the loins of their minds" to begin the work of the Board anew. They were "troubled on every side, but not in distress, perplexed but not in despair." They began at once to "strengthen the things that remain."

RALEIGH, MAY 23-27, 1866.

It will be observed that the time of meeting has been changed from November to May. So many men of our present day attended this Convention, that we can not mention their names. There is great rejoicing that Wake Forest College has been reopened. Three ministerial students were aided last year. Financial showing of the Sunday School Board not so good. Only \$11.55 above liabilities.

"Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to N. B. Cobb for the faithfulness with which he has discharged the duties of

Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School and Publication Board."

Publication of the *Recorder* has been resumed by Elder Hufham. We can never know how much it meant to our cause, that the publication of the *Recorder* was not suspended during the war. It kept intact our denomination, and it carried weekly messages to thousands of our soldier boys. Let us thank God that through that stormy period the hand of J. D. Hufham was on the helm of the old *Recorder*. A man of less heroic mold would have given up in discouragement.

The report of the Corresponding Secretary, in the minutes of 1866, is thrilling, because of the circumstances. Permit a quotation or two: "The churches have exhibited an interest and a spirit of self-sacrifice unexampled in our former history. I am sure, in some instances, at least, we have received the widow's mite. As quietly and privately these contributions have been thrust into my hands, and the donators have turned away with throbbing hearts and streaming eyes, I felt that all were making sacrifices, and many very great sacrifices." Importance of State Missions urged because of the dangerous doctrines that are finding their way into our section. "The Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Baptists have hitherto had almost exclusive control of the religious interests of the Southern States, but now Unitarians and, indeed, all the isms which years

ago gained a strong foothold in the Northern States, are looking upon our section of the country as a field already white for the harvest." * * * "The only hope for succeeding generations is in the power of the Cross of Christ, and you, dear brethren of the Board, are to inaugurate measures to secure the preaching of Christ and Him Crucified to the people of our State, as their only hope in time and eternity. May God enlarge your hearts and give you wisdom and grace to do the work assigned you."

The Board finds it necessary to aid the pastors of some of our strongest churches in order to give them a support. Two hundred dollars was appropriated to James McDaniel at Fayetteville, and two hundred dollars to T. B. Kingsbury at Warrenton.

The brethren now begin to gather up the scattered threads, and to weave them into a web of glorious history.

CHAPTER V.

1867—1880.

WILMINGTON, MAY 22-25, 1867.

The work of State Missions is being enlarged. Seventeen missionaries were employed last year. The Board says that instead of seventeen we should have a hundred. All the Associations in the State are now co-operating with the Board. The contributions are larger than in the years of greatest prosperity. In addition to the \$3,000 which had been collected, there was enough due in subscriptions to swell the amount to \$5,000 for State Missions. This increase is due, in part at least, to the fact that the Associations are now working through the Board rather than independently. Heretofore amounts contributed for Associational Missions did not appear in the Treasurer's report.

There is a reaction in the work of the Sunday School Board. Several agents had been employed to canvass the State, but had not raised enough to pay their own expenses. The Board is in debt \$1,000. From this time until it was abolished, the Sunday School Board was a kind of "white elephant" on the hands of the Convention.

Work is begun for the endowment of Wake Forest College. R. B. Jones, Agent, had been raising funds at the rate of a thousand dollars a week. He had been

in the field four months and had secured in cash and subscriptions \$16,000.

Dr. Boyce received subscriptions to the Seminary, amounting to \$1,800.

“Resolved, That we commend to the liberality of the brethren at large, Elder W. M. Jones, or any agent of the Church in Wilmington, who visits them to secure funds for the completion of the house of worship of said church.”

J. B. Solomon introduced a resolution which would practically have turned the work of State Missions over to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. This is the third time such an attempt has been made. This, like the other similar resolutions, was voted down. One almost trembles to think what the result would have been had such a resolution passed.

The Committee on Periodicals recommend the *Recorder*, *Kind Words* and *Child's Delight*.

P. W. Dowd, the first President of the Convention, and Noah Richardson, who had been an attendant upon the sessions for a long time, have both died since the meeting of the last Convention.

GOLDSBORO, OCTOBER 16-19, 1867.

It will be observed that two Conventions were held in 1867, caused by changing the time again from May to October.

Invitation to visiting brethren was accepted by Thomas Henderson Pritchard, of Virginia. Dr.

Pritchard went from Hertford to Petersburg, Va., to become pastor of the First Baptist Church there.

Dr. Skinner has resigned as pastor of the Church in Raleigh and will go to another State. Resolutions are passed expressing regret at his departure, and appreciation of his great work in the State. They also declare their high regard for "our esteemed and venerated brother, C. W. Skinner, who will accompany his son."

At the request of the colored brethren, a committee was appointed to aid them in the organization of a colored Baptist State Convention.

Extracts from the report of the Board of Missions:

"We have collected and expended about \$2,000 since the last meeting of the Convention, less than five months. Our field of operations is steadily enlarging, and we are now reaching points of destitution in parts of the State far remote from us. To-day North Carolina is more nearly allied in the work of home evangelization than at any period of our past history." Special attention is called to what is said about Associational Executive Committees:

"In the plan upon which we now act we do not desire the disorganization of Associational Committees, but urge their appointment in all the District Associations. These committees look out and report upon the destitution in their own bounds, and recommend such appointments as they deem advisable." They state further that the Executive Committees should seek to increase the contributions from the

churches, and should endorse none but worthy men and needy fields. In this way they could act as safeguards, and prevent the wasting of money upon fields not needing help.

Contributions to Home and Foreign Missions have fallen, according to the Treasurer's report, to less than \$100 each. This is because each Board has an agent in the State and contributions do not pass through the hands of our Treasurer.

The Committee on Periodicals declare that the *Recorder* should go into the homes of all our people. "It will carry news to them from all parts of the State, and so cheaply—only three dollars."

Dr. Samuel Wait has died since the last Convention. He was one of the founders of the Convention, first President of Wake Forest College, and President of Oxford Female Seminary.

On the back of the minutes for 1867 is an advertisement of the *Biblical Recorder*. Walters, Hughes & Co. are proprietors; W. G. Walters and J. H. Mills are editors, and W. M. Wingate, associate editor. W. T. Walters, though one of the editors of the *Recorder*, is still Corresponding Secretary of the Convention.

HILLSBORO, OCTOBER 28-30, 1868.

Dr. Pritchard is back from Virginia, having been called to the Church in Raleigh. A message is delivered from Elder James McDaniel, who is at home sick. Elder Samuel G. Mason was elected President.

The name of J. A. Broadus appears for the first time. He represents the Seminary.

The Sunday School Board is up again. Some books were returned to the Philadelphia Publication Society which cut down the indebtedness to \$500. Some old stock of no value on hand. Some accounts due but can not be collected. Reports of Committee on Sunday School Board recommend:

“First, That a committee, consisting of W. J. Palmer, P. F. Pescud, John G. Williams, J. M. Heck, and W. T. Walters, be appointed to settle up affairs of the former Board, and report their action to the next meeting of this body.

“Second. We further recommend that the Sunday School and Publishing Board be discontinued and that the whole work contemplated by the former Board be entrusted to the Baptist Sunday School Association of North Carolina, upon condition that they make annual reports of their operations to this body.” The Baptist Sunday School Association was not yet organized, but plans were on foot for its organization.

A collection of \$385 was raised to be applied to the debt of the Sunday School Board and the report was adopted. J. C. Hiden, the new pastor at Wilmington, attends this Convention.

There are twenty-one missionaries on the field.

“Resolved, That in the department of State Missions the denomination ought to expend not less than \$20,000 annually.”

NEW BERN, NOVEMBER 10-14, 1869.

Elder W. T. Brooks was elected President. Elder C. T. Bailey attends for the first time. The Sunday School Association submits their first report. B. W. Justice is Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Association, and they have several district secretaries. They report an increase in the number of schools and in attendance. There are 600 schools and 40,000 pupils; \$2,580.96 had been collected, of which amount \$1,651 was given by the Church at Raleigh.

Report says: "The labors of the Corresponding Secretary have been directed more to organizing schools and conventions and forwarding the work in different portions of the State than to raising money, trusting that the Sunday School Association would share, in common with the other objects of the Convention, the contributions of the churches, but a very limited number remembered us in distributing their gifts."

Rather discouraging report of the Board of Missions. Only seventeen missionaries. Churches at High Point and Thomasville about to be sold for debt.

Little said about Home and Foreign Missions. Home Mission Board has one agent in the State, and the Foreign Mission Board two. Our Board does not feel the responsibility that it once did for these objects. No mention made in Treasurer's report of amounts raised for Home and Foreign Missions.

Dr. Williams represents the Seminary. Took a collection for students' aid fund, amounting to \$101.50. This is the first time this object has come before the Convention.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 9-13, 1870.

James McDaniel has died since last Convention. He was one of those present at the formation of the Convention, and served as President for eighteen consecutive sessions, a longer period than any President has ever served.

Dr. Yates is at home on a second visit from China. He is warmly welcomed, but does not seem to create the enthusiasm that he did on his first visit, due, no doubt, to the fact that the Foreign Mission Board has its own agent in our State and there does not appear to be very close and cordial co-operation with our Board.

The Sunday School Association brings a rather gloomy report this year. The Corresponding Secretary resigned at the close of last year, and the Board reports a debt of \$300 due a special agent. Little interest was shown in this work outside of Raleigh. The Secretary says he found "a general dislike among the churches to paying salaries of agents." No wonder! There was the Corresponding Secretary of our own Convention, the Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Association, and two or three district agents, two agents for the Foreign Mission Board, one for the Home Mission Board and one for the

Sunday School and Publication Society of the Southern Baptist Convention. It would be a very long suffering people who could stand all that without complaining.

Little has been done in the department of State Missions. W. T. Walters was elected Corresponding Secretary at the last Convention, but resigned at close of the first quarter. At the beginning of the year the Board was in debt \$916.55. The Board put out three evangelists, with instructions that they were to raise money for State Missions wherever they went. No other missionaries were employed by the Board. These evangelists collected \$208.15 above their salaries. This brought the indebtedness down to \$708.40. It is the same old trouble, the Associations are swinging off and working independently, leaving the Board without means to supply the destitution in the State at large. The chairman of the Board, through the *Recorder*, requested Associations to give account of Mission work done within their bounds. Only two responded.

The brethren see that a vigorous Corresponding Secretary must be put in the field without delay. A committee was appointed to nominate a Corresponding Secretary. The name of Elder J. D. Hufham was presented to the Convention. "He was unanimously elected, and the Convention was led in prayer by Elder Hiden for the blessing of God upon the appointment."

CHARLOTTE, NOVEMBER 8-11, 1871.

W. T. Brooks, President.

These are the most complete minutes ever published up to this time. N. B. Cobb is Recording Secretary. He was a stenographic reporter. The minutes contain the substance of the principal addresses made. For the first time statistics by associations and churches are given, so far as the minutes of the Associations could be collected by the Secretary.

After a long and very faithful term of service as Treasurer, Mr. James S. Purefoy declined re-election, and Mr. J. G. Williams, of Raleigh, was elected.

In its report to the Convention the Board of Missions says: "There were several difficulties in the way of a vigorous and efficient prosecution of State Missions. There were appeals for this object going before the churches from three sources: the Domestic Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, our own State Convention, and the District Associations, many of which were attempting to supply the wants of particular sections without co-operation with the Convention. It is easy to see how confusion and sometimes clashing, would result. Then there were old debts of considerable amounts, and some of them of several years' standing, to be provided for."

Not many missionaries were employed by the Board, but on the roll were some of the best men in the State. E. Allison and C. J. Nelson were ap-

pointed missionaries in the Pamlico Association. They preached at Goldsboro, Snow Hill, Greenville, Washington, Plymouth, Wilmington, Scotland Neck, and other points. George W. Greene was at Tarboro; W. R. Gwaltney, at Chapel Hill; F. M. Jordan, at Company Shops (now Burlington), Salisbury and Winston; W. T. Walters, at Weldon and Littleton; J. B. Richardson, at Greensboro; H. A. Brown, in the Beulah Association; J. K. Howell, at Lincolnton and Hickory.

A. D. Phillips, missionary to Africa, was present, and invited to a seat in the Convention.

“On motion, a committee (Elder Brunt, chairman) was appointed to consider and report on the propriety of appointing a board to assist churches in the erection of houses of worship.”

“On motion, J. H. Mills and Elders N. A. Purefoy, Pritchard, Walters and Hufham were appointed to consider and report on the propriety of appointing a Sunday School Board to co-operate with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.” This committee recommended that a Sunday School Board be appointed; “provided that it shall in no case be authorized to impose any pecuniary obligation on the Convention.”

The committee, to nominate the Boards of the Convention, recommended that the Mission Board have supervision of the Sunday School work. This recommendation elicited considerable discussion, and the part of the report referring to the Sunday School

Board was recommitted to the committee. R. R. Overby, chairman of committee, submitted another report, reiterating their former recommendation. The report was amended by authorizing the appointment of a Sunday School Board, to be located at Shelby, and to consist of the following brethren: J. Jenkins, J. B. Boone, H. C. Davis, John Durham, N. B. Cobb, A. C. Dixon, and W. C. Durham.

In the report on obituaries mention is made of the death of C. W. Skinner, father of Thomas E. Skinner, and one of the fourteen who organized the Convention.

FAYETTEVILLE, NOVEMBER 6-9, 1872.

W. T. Walters, President. N. B. Cobb, Recording Secretary. H. A. Tupper, Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, attends this session. C. H. Toy is present as representative from the Seminary.

J. H. Mills, by permission, made statements in regard to the difficulties of editing the *Recorder*, and suggested that the Committee on Periodicals recommend another editor. Mr. Mills was editor at that time.

The Board submits a short but encouraging report. There were thirty-eight missionaries under appointment of the Board, and substantial progress was made at many important points. The amount reported for State Missions was \$5,626.33, and total amount for all the Mission objects was \$8,295.13.

A movement is put on foot to raise a hundred thousand dollars endowment for Wake Forest College.

"A collection was taken for the Greensboro Church, amounting to \$87.00 in cash and \$35.00 in pledges."

Resolutions are passed approving the action of the trustees in removing the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary from Greenville, S. C., to Louisville, Ky.

The Sunday School Board recommended the appointment of a Sunday School Missionary for the State. A committee, which was appointed to report on the recommendation, brought in an adverse report, which was adopted.

From the summary of the Secretary's report, we learn that there were thirty-six white Associations, with 822 churches and 78,502 members, and twelve colored Associations, with 282 churches and 27,560 members.

WARRENTON, NOVEMBER 5-8, 1873.

President, W. T. Brooks; Corresponding Secretary, J. D. Hufham.

Dr. Hufham read the report on State Missions. In mentioning the difficulties, he says: "It was decided at the last session of the Convention to make a general canvass for endowment of Wake Forest, and to endeavor to raise a hundred thousand dollars during the year. In view of this, we thought it would not be wise to extend our operations very largely in the department of State Missions."

Despite the discouragements, considerable progress was made. Twenty-five missionaries had operated

under the direction of the Board. There is a large debt on State Missions. The appropriations amounted to \$4,617.00, and the receipts were only \$1,857.56. Dr. Hufham says he intended to resign as Secretary when he came to the Convention, but is unwilling to retire while the Board is in debt, and will continue.

The Sunday School Board, through J. B. Boone, chairman, submitted an interesting report to the Convention. N. B. Cobb was employed as Secretary of the Sunday School Board, with the understanding that the Board would not be responsible for his salary. He accepted the appointment, relying upon the generosity of the denomination for his support. The Treasurer's report shows that a sufficient amount was not raised to pay the salary of the Secretary.

Elder A. F. Redd has purchased the *Recorder* from Mr. J. H. Mills. He has formed a co-partnership with Edwards & Broughton, taking in the *Recorder* as his part of the stock. There are now 3,200 paying subscribers. Dr. Hufham says, "the circulation is larger than it ever was and the paper is better than it ever was."

Dr. Broadus says he likes to put the *Recorder* in the hands of his children, because of its excellent sense. Besides, it is sound in doctrine, and some of our very best writers are contributing to it. He reads it with unusual interest.

It was when the subject of education was called up that the Convention reached "high-water mark." Dr. Wingate presented a very clear and ringing re-

port in regard to the work of the endowment. He estimated that \$40,000 had been raised, mostly in pledges. This was a year memorable for its financial stringency. A money panic had swept the country from side to side, and we were yet in the throes of it. "But such seasons make heroes of us. Heroes many of us must become if we would lift our State, nay our beloved Zion, from the ashes of her sloth, and possess for ourselves and our children a heritage of hope. We have started from our Egypt. Let come what will, our faces are to a better land. We must go forward."

After a very enthusiastic discussion, participated in by many of the brethren, it was unanimously agreed to continue the canvass for the endowment through another year.

In discussing ministerial education, Dr. Broadus said: "There is no conflict between the teaching of science and the Bible, but the conflict is between the teachers of science and the Bible."

WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 4-7, 1874.

J. M. Heck was elected President, and J. B. Richardson, Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Hufham having resigned. No man ever entered upon any work under more discouraging conditions than those which confronted Dr. Hufham when he became Corresponding Secretary. There has never been an hour in the history of the Convention, before or since, when the outlook was so gloomy. The work had

literally gone to pieces. The year before he became Secretary, the former Secretary resigned at the close of the first quarter, leaving not a missionary on the field, and a debt of \$916.15. Two agents were put in the field to try to raise this debt. After paying their salaries and expenses the debt was reduced to \$708.46. The Associations were working independently and a state of disorganization existed from mountains to sea. This was a result of the general demoralization caused by the war.

Such was the condition of affairs when J. D. Hufham came to the Secretaryship. It is to be regretted that we are not able, because of the missing minutes, to give his work in detail. Some general statements will give an idea of what he did. One has but to compare the report of 1870 with that of 1873 to see the very remarkable advance. In 1873 a goodly number of the Associations had been brought into harmonious co-operation with the Convention; about two thousand dollars had been raised for State Missions, and twenty-five missionaries were employed by the Board and the co-operating Associations. In other words, during these four years, order was brought out of chaos, and the Convention once more started upon an onward and upward career.

SHELBY, NOVEMBER 10-13, 1875.

John Kerr, President; J. D. Hufham, Recording Secretary.

The Board presents a gloomy report. They have been carrying a debt for two years. In 1872,

\$5,626.33 was reported for State Missions, while in 1873 the contributions reached only \$1,857.56. This is accounted for in part by the fact that Associational Missions were included in the receipts of 1872, and not in those of 1873. But after making this allowance, there is a falling off of more than fifty per cent in one year. "This remarkable deficit was due, mainly, to the monetary panic with which the whole country was afflicted that year." The year 1875 was begun with a debt of nearly \$2,000.

Here is a characteristic speech from Elias Dodson on State Missions: "The Devil makes and misapplies Scripture. 'Charity begins at home' is Beelzebub's Scripture. There are some primary and some secondary duties. What God calls primary duties the Devil calls secondary duties. Duty to God is a primary duty; duty to self is secondary. A remark in regard to towns. Christ and his apostles labored in the towns. All the epistles addressed to churches, except one, are addressed to town churches."

C. T. Bailey and J. D. Hufham are editing the *Recorder*.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 15-18, 1876.

C. M. Cooke, President.

The report of the Board shows that at the beginning of this year there was an accumulated indebtedness of about \$2,000. For this reason it was thought best to employ only nine missionaries. The debt reported to this Convention was \$481.83. The same

old difficulty confronts the Board, viz: want of co-operation on the part of the Associations with the Convention.

“We would urge upon our pastors and churches the importance of prosecuting, so far as possible, the work of giving religious instruction to the colored people among us, and we request our Mission and Sunday School Boards, so far as practicable, to give aid in organizing and expending among them Sunday School and church privileges.”

T. H. Briggs, Jr., offered the following resolutions:

“Resolved, That we heartily commend to our brethren the orphan work of the State, at present under management of Bro. J. H. Mills.

“Resolved, That we earnestly request the pastors of our churches to make stated collections for said object, using every effort to promote the noble charity and great work of so much importance to the Commonwealth of North Carolina.

“Resolved, That one-half of the collection to-morrow morning shall be appropriated to this cause.”

Dr. William Hooper has died since the last Convention. He was eighty-four years old.

DURHAM, NOVEMBER 7-10, 1877.

John Kerr, President.

The Sunday School Board makes a fine report. They began the year with a debt of \$275.45. Decided to employ no Secretary. The services of Mr. John

E. Ray were secured for as much time as he could give to the Board. He was a teacher in the School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, over which institution he now presides. They gave him a salary of ten dollars per month for two and a half months, and then raised it to fifteen dollars per month. The young people of the Raleigh churches aided him in his correspondence. The "Little Leader" plan was adopted, and bands were organized in many schools, but what they raised was used largely at home. A system of colportage was begun on a small scale. An office was secured in the Briggs Building, on Fayetteville Street, in Raleigh. The Board is out of debt and has something over \$900 to its credit.

The Woman's Central Committee was organized in April, 1877, with Mrs. J. M. Heck, President; Mrs. A. M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mrs. F. L. Mahler, Secretary; Mrs. J. C. Scarborough, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. T. H. Pritchard, Treasurer. They report seventeen societies organized and collections from them amounting to \$342.16.

Dr. Pritchard introduced the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the Convention has heard with pleasure of the formation of the Central Committee of the Woman's Missionary Societies of the State and the good work it has accomplished.

"Resolved. That we commend this enterprise, which has as its end the development of the gifts and graces of the Christian women of the State, as worthy

of the confidence and support of all ministers and churches.

“Resolved, That we cordially invite this committee to report the work they may be able to accomplish to this Convention at its next session.”

A most spirited discussion followed, and the Convention adjourned without voting on the resolutions. Subsequently Dr. Pritchard amended his resolutions by making the last one read as follows:

“Resolved, That we cordially invite this committee to report the work the societies organized in the churches may be able to do to this Convention at its next annual session.”

After more discussion, the report, as amended, was adopted.

J. B. Hartwell, missionary to China, was introduced.

The North Carolina Baptist Students' Aid Association was represented by J. W. Denmark, and recommended by the Convention.

Dr. Walters has died since last Convention.

CHARLOTTE, NOVEMBER 6-7, 1878.

W. A. Graham, President.

J. B. Richardson served one quarter as Corresponding Secretary, at the conclusion of which time he resigned. Mr. Richardson's administration was handicapped from the beginning by debt. The year before he came into the office, the energies of the denomination were centered on raising a hundred thou-

sand dollars endowment for Wake Forest College. With this effort came the money panic, to which reference was made above. The Board had laid out its work on a large scale, and were forced to report a \$2,000 debt. The clearing away of this debt was the chief work of Dr. Richardson, and he succeeded admirably. He left the Board free of debt. Messrs. Hufham and Richardson steered the State Mission work through a most perilous period, and deserve the lasting gratitude of the denomination.

Mr. John E. Ray was asked to do the correspondence for the Board after the resignation of Dr. Richardson at a salary of ten dollars per month. For several years Mr. Ray did the work in this way.

In its report the Board says: "There are three kinds of Associations:

(1) Those in which there is no destitute territory, but such as can be reached by pastors. (2) Those in which there is some destitution, but not enough to require all the funds which could be raised by the churches. (3) Those in which there is destitution so extensive that it can not be supplied without help from other Associations. Now, can not these Associations be induced to work together with the Convention as a common centre or vehicle of communication? If it can be done, the most serious difficulty in our way, will have been removed."

Foreign Missions is looking up. There is an increase in contributions of \$800 over last year. For several years the Central Association has been paying

half of Dr. Yates's salary. The Raleigh Association, at its last session, assumed the other half.

The Woman's Central Committee reports thirty-six societies and \$500 contributed, as against seventeen societies and \$340 contributed last year.

A collection was taken for the Charlotte Church, amounting to \$919.50.

The Sunday School Board is pressing its work vigorously. Thirty-five new schools were established last year and the colportage department is flourishing.

OXFORD, NOVEMBER 5-8, 1879.

N. B. Cobb, President.

Secretary Ray gave six weeks to visiting Associations, for which he received nothing except expenses. There are eighteen missionaries of the Board in the field, and nearly as many associational missionaries. Elder Dodson rarely writes a report or makes a speech that he does not emphasize the importance of cultivating the towns.

The Sunday School Board is doing well. A good many schools were supplied with literature, and there is money in the treasury. Receipts were nearly \$1,900, of which \$580 was from sales.

Seventeen ministerial students were aided at Wake Forest last year.

The total amount raised for Foreign Missions, including the contributions from the Woman's Mis-

sionary Societies, was \$2,875.70. Of this amount the Raleigh and Central Associations paid \$1,200 for the support of Dr. Yates.

Nearly \$2,000 was raised in cash and pledges for Home Missions.

Dr. Wingate, President of Wake Forest College; Judge John Kerr, President of the Convention several times, and Mr. John G. Williams, former Treasurer, have all died since last Convention.

GOLDSBORO, NOVEMBER 17-20, 1880.

N. B. Cobb, President.

Dr. Graves, missionary from China, attends this Convention. Foreign Missions makes the best financial showing yet made. T. Harrison was in the field as special agent for the Foreign Mission Board. Total amount raised for Foreign Missions was \$4,696.46.

The following report was submitted by T. H. Pritchard, T. Whitfield and J. B. Richardson, committee:

"The committee appointed to consider the propriety of creating a Board of Foreign Missions for the Baptists of North Carolina, beg to recommend the appointment of such a Board, and would suggest that it be located in Wilmington." A motion to table the report was lost by the casting vote of the President. After discussion by Hufham, Taylor, Pritchard, Whitfield and Skinner, a vote on the main question was taken and the motion to adopt the report was lost. The following resolution was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention be requested to appoint agencies for the collection of funds in this State only on the recommendation of the Mission Board of this Convention.”

A collection was taken for ministerial education amounting to \$700, perhaps the largest in the history of the Convention, for this object.

This is the semi-centennial year of the organization of the Convention. A semi-centennial celebration was held on Saturday night. The past history of the Convention was reviewed, and speeches made on the progress of the different departments of the work. When the Convention was organized, there were 15,000 Baptists in the State. In 1880, fifty years later, there were one hundred thousand white and eighty thousand colored Baptists in North Carolina.

CHAPTER VI.

1881—1888.

WINSTON, NOVEMBER 9-13, 1881.

There are twenty-three ministerial students at Wake Forest College.

Some idea of the growth of State Missions can be gained from the fields mentioned this year. Shoe Heel (now Maxton), Rockingham, Pittsboro, Hickory, Morganton, High Point, Salisbury, Mooresville, Statesville, Weldon, Greenville and Mount Airy are the points mentioned in addition to what was done for Associational Missions. Of the above points, all save Mooresville have become self-sustaining, and many of them are strong churches.

Number of white Baptists in the State at this time, 103,002. Raised for State Missions last year, \$2,372.90. Elias Dodson is agent for Home Mission Board. No special agent for Foreign Missions. Reported for Foreign Missions, \$3,791.55.

Treasurer reported total of \$10,967.95½. As to how change was made for the half cent, the reader is referred to B. F. Montague, Esq., who was Treasurer at that time.

Treasurer Montague requested that a committee be appointed to consider the advisability of making the Treasurer a bonded officer. Committee recommended that Treasurer be required to give bond of \$10,000. Report adopted.

Pledges taken for State Missions for next year's work. This is the first time this was done, but the custom was kept up for some years after this.

The Committee on Sunday School Board recommended:

"1. That the Sunday School Board be instructed to raise, during the coming year, a sufficient capital to enable it to purchase and keep on hand a supply of the Word of God, Sunday School literature (song-books, maps, papers, etc.), in order that it may furnish our Sunday Schools said literature, selling to all who can buy at the lowest prices, and also supplying, as far as possible, and without cost to them, the destitute places within their borders.

"2. We earnestly recommend that all of our churches take up stated collections in behalf of the Sunday School Board."

Pending the adoption of this report, pledges were taken amounting to \$1,000 as capital with which to begin business. This was the beginning of the Sunday School Supply Store.

There are at this time 622 ordained ministers in the State, not including those in the Western Convention.

WARRENTON, NOVEMBER 14-18, 1882.

J. C. Scarborough, President; N. B. Broughton, Recording Secretary.

The report of the Sunday School Board shows that of the \$1,000 subscribed at Winston for the Supply

Store, only \$273.00 had been paid. Beginning with this small capital, the store did a business of \$1,-689.45 during the year, and reports no debt.

The Board of Missions reports gracious revivals in fifty-three towns, and two hundred and eighty country churches. About six thousand were added by baptism. This was in the State at large, and not the work of missionaries of the Board, though, of course, their work is included. The Board had thirty-eight missionaries in the field last year. There are three counties in the East with neither a Baptist Church nor Baptist preacher; five other counties with only one Baptist Church each, and twelve counties with only two self-supporting churches.

Attention was called to the "seemingly inappropriate names given to some of our churches, and the cause they represent, and that they should be changed."

Dr. I. T. Tichenor, new Secretary of the Home Mission Board, attends for the first time.

The following telegram was received:

"We send greetings. Beg that you will remember our Memorial Church at Greenville. (Psalm 19:17). Ladies Baptist Sewing Society." For a number of years the Convention is not allowed to forget the Memorial Church at Greenville.

W. F. Marshall, senior editor of the *Wake Forest Student*, presented claims of that periodical. R. H. Marsh, editor of the *Orphans' Friend*, asks for patronage.

EDENTON, NOVEMBER 14-19, 1883.

J. C. Scarborough, President.

The endowment of Wake Forest College is called to the attention of the Convention. Dr. Taylor had been in the field to raise balance of \$100,000. Said if he could get \$3,000 at this Convention, he felt sure of the balance. Three thousand and five dollars was raised, Dr. Skinner heading the list with one thousand. Raised for State Missions last year nearly five thousand dollars and a little more than this for Associational Missions. Treasurer's report shows \$18,584.45. Contributions are growing beautifully. Five thousand six hundred dollars pledged for State Missions for next year.

On the first of last August the location of the Woman's Central Committee was changed to Charlotte.

This was a great Convention. During last year the receipts show \$106,000, including amount of endowment.

The report on obituaries informs us that three of the most useful members of the Convention have passed away since last Convention, viz: Elder W. H. Jordan, Elias Dodson, and W. T. Brooks.

RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 12-16, 1884.

J. C. Scarborough, President.

At the meeting just after the last Convention, the Board instructed the Corresponding Secretary to employ ministerial students at Wake Forest and the Seminary to do evangelistic work. They were to aid

pastors who desired their services, and take collections for State Missions. Twelve students were engaged. Their reports show 870 professions, 663 baptisms and \$1,044.55 collected.

It had been customary from the founding of Wake Forest College up to a few years ago for the Convention to suggest a number of names, from which number brethren were to be selected to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest College. A motion was made at this meeting that the Convention elect trustees to fill vacancies. After much discussion, the whole matter was tabled.

Dr. Hufham introduced the following, which was adopted:

"Whereas, it is a matter of exceeding great importance, that the connection between our college and the great body of Baptists in the State should be as close as possible, and,

"Whereas, The custodians of the college, feeling this, were wont for many years to ask this body to recommend suitable persons from whom to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees; and,

"Whereas, We believe this to be a safe and wholesome precedent; therefore,

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed to recommend seven brethren from whom to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees."

This is the last seen in the minutes of this method of electing trustees.

“Resolved, That the Convention most heartily endorse the action of the Board of Trustees in electing Prof. C. E. Taylor to the presidency of Wake Forest College, and that we pledge to Prof. Taylor our sympathy and support.”

Elder R. R. Overby announced that a meeting was held this afternoon and that the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage Association had been organized with the following officers: President, J. C. Scarborough; Vice-Presidents, R. R. Overby and W. B. Clements; Secretary, George W. Greene; Treasurer, C. Durham.

Nothing is said of the discussion in the Convention.

REIDSVILLE, NOVEMBER 11-15, 1885.

C. T. Bailey, President.

A committee was appointed to report on the Orphanage. Though there was some opposition to establishing the Orphanage, it now takes its place with the objects of the Convention, and becomes entrenched in the affections of the Baptists of the State. Committee on Orphanage report that 171 acres of land has been purchased near Thomasville, one house, the gift of Elder John Mitchell, has been completed, another, the gift of Mr. John Watson, will soon be finished, and still another, the gift of Mr. Noah Biggs, will be built as soon as possible.

Greenville Memorial is before the Convention again. A \$5,000 mortgage rests on the church. A committee was appointed to raise the amount.

There is a debt on State Missions to the amount of \$557.31. John E. Ray is elected Secretary, to give his whole time to the work.

Trustees of Wake Forest College make report. One hundred and fifty-nine students present. This is the largest number ever present at the fall term up to this time. Endowment \$102,999.82.

N. B. Broughton offered the following resolution:

“Whereas, the ninth day of December next is the time fixed for the sailing to China of Brother and Sister Herring and Brother and Sister R. T. Bryan; therefore,

“Resolved, That we make the ninth day of December a day of special prayer, for their safety on the journey, and for the Lord’s blessings upon their labors in His service.”

WILMINGTON, NOVEMBER 17-21, 1886.

C. T. Bailey, President.

Raised for State Missions last year \$8,059.27. No debt.

“Resolved, That our State Mission Board be authorized to expend \$10,000 in the mission fields of the State next year, and we, in Convention assembled, representing 95,000 members of our churches, pledge ourselves each individually, to do more this year than we did last, and use our best efforts to induce others to do so.”

We have here the first report of woman’s work since 1878. The Central Committee is back in

Raleigh, with Miss Fannie E. S. Heck, President, and Miss Sallie Bailey, Corresponding Secretary. The contributions of the societies are now divided between State, Home and Foreign Missions.

Committee appointed to borrow money, if necessary, and pay the debt on the Greenville church.

On motion of Elder McManaway, the report on time and place of next meeting was considered, and on motion of Elder Durham the word "Greensboro" was stricken out and the word "Durham" inserted.

Report on Orphanage states that there are forty-eight orphans at Thomasville.

North Carolina now has three men preaching the Gospel in China.

DURHAM, NOVEMBER 16-20, 1887.

W. H. Pace, President.

Instead of having a special agent in the State, the Home and Foreign Mission Boards now have vice-presidents for each State. Theo. Whitfield was the first vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board for North Carolina, and A. G. McManaway for the Home Board.

A little paper, the *Missionary Talk*, was published monthly by the Woman's Central Committee, and distributed free of charge. The women raised last year \$1,717.46.

Sunday School institutes, under the direction of the Board, were held during the year, at a number of important central points, and their influence, we are led to believe, was widespread and helpful.

At this session W. L. Wright was recommended to the Foreign Mission Board as a suitable man for vice-president for North Carolina in place of Theo. Whitfield, who had removed from the State. Mr. Wright was appointed.

The following resolution was introduced by Dr. Hufham:

“Resolved, That as much of the report of the Board of Missions as refers to woman’s work, be referred to a committee of seven, with instructions to consider the expediency of admitting female delegates into this body, and the conditions and restrictions under which they are to be admitted.” The committee was appointed and reported, but the report was tabled and is not printed in the minutes.

Resolution by Dr. Hufham:

“Resolved, That we receive with pleasure the report of the excellent work done by the Woman’s Central Committee on Missions, and we cordially bid them continue the same, assuring them of our sympathy, co-operation and aid.”

The Committee on Plan for Caring for Indigent and Infirm Preachers, “recommend that the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage Association make provision, so far as practicable, for the worthy and needy worn-out ministers of the State. Churches are asked to take at least one collection a year for this object.”

“Resolved, That we sympathize with and heartily endorse the effort of our colored brethren to found

an Orphanage at Oxford, as represented before this Convention by Rev. W. A. Patillo."

The Board of Missions and the Sunday School Board were consolidated under the name of "Board of Missions and Sunday Schools."

A resolution was introduced by C. Durham looking to a union of the State and Western Conventions.

A collection was taken in cash and subscriptions, to the amount of \$1,037.55, to complete the Bryan House in China.

There are seventy-five children at the Orphanage. *Charity and Children* has been started and indorsed by the Convention. A collection of \$531.98 was raised for outfit for *Charity and Children*.

John E. Ray resigned as Secretary and left the State to take a position in the Institution for the Blind in Colorado. Mr. Ray left in September, and Mr. C. Durham was selected by the Board to fill the unexpired term.

It is but just to speak a word of Mr. John E. Ray's work as Corresponding Secretary of the Convention. Steady progress was made from the beginning to the close of his career as Secretary. It would be unfair to institute a comparison of his administration based on visible results, with those which had preceded it, because of changed conditions. Up to the time that Mr. Ray began his work as Secretary, the denomination had not been organized into a compact body. It is hard to understand the peculiar difficulties of those earlier days. Ignorance, prejudice and suspicion had

to be overcome. To do this required great patience. It was "line upon line and precept upon precept," year after year. Conditions were improving, however, when the war came with its demoralizing influence, and we had almost to begin over again.

It was seen under what difficulties Dr. Hufham began his work, and how admirably he succeeded under the circumstances. Dr. Richardson came next and "cleared the deck for action" by paying off a debt which had been accumulating for years. The circulation of the *Recorder* had greatly increased. This, as it has ever been since, was a mighty agency for breaking down prejudice, disseminating truth and unifying our people. Wake Forest College was now being felt in a better equipped ministry. It was at this propitious time that Mr. Ray became Secretary. He was just the man to seize the opportunity and use it to the best advantage. This he did, as a review of his work plainly shows. He first became Secretary of the Sunday School Board at a salary of ten dollars a month, giving what time he could to it, in connection with his duties as a teacher. The Board had nothing save a debt of nearly three hundred dollars when he became Secretary. This debt was paid off with a little surplus in the treasury the first year. During his administration, the Supply Store was established, a system of colportage inaugurated and Baptist headquarters located in Raleigh. On the resignation of Mr. Richardson in 1877, Mr. Ray was employed to give what time he could to the

work of the Mission Board, and during the remainder of his term of office, he was Secretary of the Board of Missions and the Sunday Schools. When Mr. Ray took charge of the mission work there were but two or three Associations co-operating with the Convention. When he resigned, all the Associations were co-operating; there were seventy-five missionaries; and contributions to State Missions amounted to \$8,059.27. Mr. Ray gave his whole time to the work from November, 1885, to September, 1887.

The following resolutions were presented by Dr. Hufham and adopted:

“Whereas, Our beloved Bro. John E. Ray, for nine years the Corresponding Secretary of this body, has removed from our borders to a distant State; and,

“Whereas, His wise, unselfish and untiring labors aided materially in bringing our work up to its present degree of prosperity; and,

“Whereas, He greatly endeared himself to the Baptists of the State by his uniform courtesy, and by the sweetness of his spirit; therefore,

“Resolved, That we hold in grateful remembrance his labors of love while among us.”

C. T. Bailey bought Edwards & Broughton’s interest in the *Biblical Recorder*. Until his death he was sole proprietor of the paper.

CHAPTER VII.

1888—1900.

GREENSBORO, NOVEMBER 14-18, 1888.

W. H. Pace, President; W. S. Grandy, Treasurer.
Report of Board of Missions:

Three difficulties last year; Enlarged work, poor crops and political year. (It is remarkable how many poor crop years we find in the history of the Convention.) Nevertheless \$2,000 more was raised for State Missions than in 1887. There were ninety-five missionaries who reported 3,252 conversions and 879 baptisms. It will be observed that there were more missionaries in proportion to the money raised than we have today. A glance at the fields will explain this. Most of the missionaries were pastors, whose salaries were supplemented by the Board, by far the larger amount being paid by the field. Now we have many new fields, on which the pastors are largely supported by the Board.

The *Gospel Herald*, a little paper, was published monthly by C. Durham, in the interest of all mission work.

“Every pastor, aided by the Board, should most earnestly urge his people toward self-support, and should not be a party to a request for aid, when it is the duty of the Church to support itself.”

“Recommendations: 1. That no appropriations be made at the Convention, as this matter needs calm, deliberate consideration.

“2. That the length of time any Church has been helped be duly considered by the Board.

“3. That the Board be instructed to supply real destitution as rapidly as possible, even if in so doing they have to withdraw from some of the churches now receiving it.”

As timely as these recommendations seem to have been they were stricken out before the adoption of the report.

The Woman's Central Committee report the organization of the children into Sunbeam Societies.

Collection was taken for the Orphanage in cash and pledges amounting to \$495.75, and twelve boxes of clothing and provisions.

Raised for Foreign Missions last year \$8,119.24.

Dr. Yates has died since last Convention. Yates memorial services were held, special envelopes were sent out for a memorial offering, and more than \$1,500 was received.

The spirit of progress is in the air as the following resolutions show:

“On motion of C. Durham, it was voted that North Carolina try to raise \$11,000 for Foreign Missions next year.”

C. Durham introduced the following resolution:

“Resolved, That this Convention undertake to raise \$5,000 next year for Home Missions.”

On motion of F. P. Hobgood, it was voted to attempt to add \$50,000 to the endowment of Wake Forest College.

Baptist Female University: Resolution by L. L. Polk:

"Resolved, That a committee of nine, to-wit: W. R. Gwaltney, R. R. Overby, T. H. Pritchard, J. D. Hufham, R. T. Vann, N. B. Broughton, A. G. McManaway, H. W. Battle be, and is hereby appointed, to consider the expediency and feasibility of establishing a Baptist Female University in this State.

"Resolved, That said committee be, and is hereby authorized, to ascertain the best available locality, and to make estimates on the approximate cost of inaugurating such institution and report the same to the next annual session of this Convention. On motion, Colonel Polk was added to the committee as chairman.

R. T. Vann offered the following, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That this Convention recognizes and hereby gratefully expresses its high obligation to Brother Noah Biggs for his large generosity and faithful services in the cause of our Master in the matter of the Greenville Church, and pray God's blessings upon him."

HENDERSON, NOVEMBER 13-17, 1889.

L. L. Polk, President; J. D. Boushall, Treasurer.

It may be stated that Mr. Boushall served as Treasurer for eleven years, which was the second longest

term of service as Treasurer in the history of the Convention. The longest term was that of Elder J. S. Purefoy, who for twenty-six years was Treasurer.

Since the last Convention thirteen missionaries have gone from North Carolina to the foreign field, though not all under the appointment of the Board.

The Board recommend that Sunday School and colportage be made one department. Adopted.

Woman's work is steadily advancing. They report nearly \$2,000 this year.

W. H. Whitsett, Professor in the Seminary, is introduced, as are I. T. Tichenor, Secretary of the Home Board, and A. J. Diaz, Missionary to Cuba. Convention agreed to raise \$5,000 for the house of worship in Havana.

A minister's Relief Board was established, whose duty it should be to "collect, appropriate and invest funds for aged and indigent Baptist ministers." The Board was located in Wilmington.

A Committee on Baptist Female University submit a favorable report, but are unable to name the best available locality, or make estimate as to cost. The committee asks for further time, which is granted.

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Establishment of a Female College be increased to twenty-five and that these shall constitute a Board of Trustees to establish and govern such institution."

The above resolution was adopted.

E. Z. Simmons, missionary to China, was introduced.

Report on periodicals evoked quite a warm discussion. The report is not given in the minutes, as it was tabled. On motion of R. T. Vann, the Convention voted its endorsement and recommendation of the *Biblical Recorder*.

Committee on Obituaries report the death of Elders Henry Spivy, John Monroe, John Mason, James S. Purefoy, William Turner, J. M. Beasley, J. W. White, Joseph E. Carter, Deacon George R. French, and Prof. W. G. Simmons.

SHELBY, NOVEMBER 12-16, 1890.

L. L. Polk, President.

Foreign Missions is pitched on a high key. C. Durham offers a resolution that the Convention undertake to raise \$15,000 for Foreign Missions.

State Missions is in debt \$1,028.58.

N. B. Broughton offered an amendment to the Constitution, which is not recorded. The following substitute, by Thos. Hume, was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Convention instruct the Board of Missions and Sunday Schools to employ a suitable brother as secretary, who shall have charge of the Sunday School and colportage work, and the Sunday School Supply Store.”

Location of Ministers' Relief Board was changed to Durham.

A subscription was taken for the endowment of Wake Forest College, amounting to \$3,376.

The Board of Trustees of the Baptist Female University report that it was the unanimous decision of the Board to locate the school in Raleigh.

“Resolved 1. That we have heard with pleasure the report of the Trustees of the Baptist Female University.

“Resolved 2. That the Board of Trustees be requested to press with all the speed their wisdom shall dictate, the completion of the work committed to them.

“Resolved 3. That this work is most heartily commended to the sympathy and co-operation of the Baptists of the entire State.”

GOLDSBORO, NOVEMBER 11-15, 1891.

R. H. Marsh was elected President. No other man has presided so long over our Convention save the gifted James McDaniel.

A larger amount was collected and paid out to missionaries than ever before, and yet there is a debt of \$1,800. In discussing this debt and how to raise it, Dr. Hufham read Acts 11:27-30, and stated that this was the only way out of the difficulty. A collection was taken in cash and pledges amounting to \$1,074.55.

Arthur C. Melke bequeathed \$6,000 to Ministers' Relief Board, and also made large bequests to Ministerial Education and the Orphanage. In addition to these gifts he left a considerable sum to establish an Associational School at Lumberton.

M. L. Kesler was elected Sunday School Secretary, and began work June 15, 1891. The Board said of his work: "It has been almost impossible to get the churches to pledge for this department. Their energies and sympathies are pre-occupied by the other objects. Mr. Kesler did faithful, earnest work, but there were no definite methods outlined by the Board, and everything was in a chaotic state. The same difficulty obtained then, that has ever since, concerning the support of this department. The churches have never contributed enough to the Sunday School work for the support of the Secretary. Mr. Kesler resigned at this Convention to go into the pastorate.

W. R. Gwaltney, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education, reported \$2,299.32 raised, and no debt.

The first annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Societies was held at this Convention. Pastors are taking more interest in woman's work. The contributions increased last year sixty per cent.

In his speech on the Orphanage, Mr. Mills says: "A characteristic of orphans, when educated, is hospitality and kindness. A large number of orphan girls marry widowers. They make good wives and good stepmothers." He says again: "We hear a great deal about the Lord's Supper, but very little about the Lord's dinner, as recorded in Luke 14."

Dr. J. M. Frost, representing the new Sunday School Board, is welcomed. He said in his speech

that three-fifths of all the white Baptist churches in the South are without Sunday Schools."

"Resolved, That this Convention will co-operate with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention."

RALEIGH, DECEMBER 8-12, 1892.

Institute work is begun among the colored people.

Centennial of Foreign Missions. Southern Baptist Convention is undertaking to raise a fund of \$250,000 as a permanent building fund, to be divided equally between the Home and Foreign Boards. North Carolina is asked to raise \$15,000 of this amount.

After addresses on Centennial of Missions by F. M. Ellis and W. D. Powell, a collection was taken in cash and pledges amounting to \$6,980.

C. Durham introduced the following resolution:

"We recommend that each Baptist Church in the State hold a special service in their house of worship on Thanksgiving Day of each year, and take a collection in cash and kind for the Orphanage at Thomasville."

Best financial report yet made for the regular objects of the Convention. In round numbers State Missions, \$14,000; Foreign Missions, \$10,000; Home Missions, \$7,000; Education, \$3,000; Baptist Female University, \$12,800; Orphanage, \$10,000. Grand total, \$76,000.

ELIZABETH CITY, DECEMBER 7-11, 1893.

J. D. Hufham introduced a series of resolutions which called forth an animated discussion. The resolutions are not printed as originally offered, but as amended and adopted they are here given:

“Resolved, That a committee of five brethren be appointed to memorialize the Legislature at the next session of that body on the friction and competition between the State schools and the denominational schools; and also to secure, if possible, such arrangements as will enable the schools, founded and conducted by citizens, to do their work without unnecessary competition with the State schools.

“Resolved, That this committee be instructed to confer with similar committees, to be appointed by other religious bodies in the State, so as to secure concert of action.” The competition complained of was brought about by large appropriations made to the State University by the Legislature. Dr. Taylor wrote a series of articles which were put in pamphlet form on the question, “How Far Should a State Undertake to Educate?” In these articles Dr. Taylor argued that the State should furnish primary education because such education was necessary to intelligent citizenship; but it had no right to furnish higher education. He held that to tax all the citizens of the State for the support of State institutions, was unjust and wrong in principle. For years the Convention passed resolutions protesting against the ap-

propriation of large sums to State colleges. Because of their attitude on this question, the Baptists have been greatly misunderstood and misrepresented. It has been charged that they are opposed to public education. There never was a more unjust charge. They have always been the friends of public education and in legislative halls and on the hustings they have advocated larger appropriations to the State primary schools.

T. P. Bell, Secretary of the Sunday School Board; F. C. McConnell, Assistant Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and R. T. Bryan, of China, are at this Convention.

On motion of N. B. Broughton, a committee is appointed to report on the advisability of establishing a separate Board for the Sunday School work. The committee called for by the above motion reported, recommending the establishment of a Sunday School Board. C. Durham offered, as an amendment, that the matter be referred to a committee of seven who should report at the next session. Report, as amended, was adopted.

The Board reports a tremendous debt. State Missions is in debt \$3,097.10, and the Sunday School department \$2,086.64, making a total indebtedness of \$5,183.74. The Board accounts for the debt as follows: (1) Low price of cotton and tobacco; (2) Columbian Exposition took out of the State a large sum of money which would have gone to State Missions. These are the causes assigned by the Board

for this indebtedness; but another, and perhaps the chief cause, was the high pressure methods resorted to by the committee having in charge the Centennial Missionary Campaign. Those who were pastors in the State at that time will recall what pressure was brought to bear on the pastors and churches. Everything else was side-tracked for this movement. The sum of \$5,152.05 was raised for the Centennial of Missions, but it was done largely by cutting down contributions to other things, and there was a reaction from which it took years to recover.

The Board recommended that "a committee be appointed to try to secure one hundred Associations, churches or individuals, who will agree to pay the entire debt on State Missions in ninety days from January 1st." Recommendation adopted.

R. J. Willingham, the new Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, attended this Convention.

O. L. Stringfield was elected by the Trustees as Financial Secretary of the Baptist Female University.

French Broad, Yancey County, and Mitchell County Associations come to the Convention from the Western Convention.

W. H. Pace has died since last Convention.

CHARLOTTE, DECEMBER 6-10, 1894.

Mrs. M. T. Yates, of China, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Newton, of Africa, and Col. J. M. Heck, of Raleigh, have all passed away since last Convention.

By April 1st all the debt on State Missions, brought over from last year (\$3,097.11) was paid and \$500 of the debt on the Sunday School department. The debt on the Sunday School department seems to have been on account of the Supply Store. By rigidly enforcing the cash system, the Board was able last year to increase the assets and decrease the liabilities. They feel sure that the store will work itself out of debt.

The Trustees of the Baptist Female University in their report state that they "have unanimously agreed to ask the next General Assembly to change the name of the proposed institution, and a committee has been appointed to carry this determination into effect." Subsequent history does not tell us what became of the committee and the new name. Perhaps the General Assembly was so delighted with the present name that they would not agree to change it. It seems by this report, that the Trustees had already unanimously agreed. It may be stated here, that some years after this the Trustees changed the name to "The Baptist University for Women."

"Resolved, That the Board of Missions and Sunday Schools be instructed to appoint a Sunday School missionary or missionaries, to labor in the bounds of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention."

"Resolved, That a committee of seven brethren, viz: R. H. Marsh, J. D. Hufham, H. A. Brown, J. L. Carroll, W. L. Poteat, C. Durham and J. B. Boone, be appointed to consider the interests of our

denominational organ, with special reference to the propriety and feasibility of the consolidation and unification of all the Baptist newspapers in the bounds of our Convention. And that the above committee be authorized to advise the best plans possible in this matter.”

GREENSBORO, DECEMBER 5-9, 1895.

Since the meeting of the last Convention, two of the most prominent and useful brethren have been called to their reward. For several years C. T. Bailey and C. Durham had wrought together in building up the Redeemer's kingdom on earth, and now they are rejoicing together over their finished work. Dr. Bailey was editor of the *Biblical Recorder* for twenty years. During this period he guided the paper through many a storm, and kept it off the breakers. He was a man of remarkable foresight and this stood him in good stead as an editor. His ability to “discern the signs of the times” kept him from many mistakes into which men of less keen insight would have fallen. He put the paper on a solid basis, and greatly increased its circulation and influence. Under his wise management, the *Recorder* was sound to the core, and as true as the needle to the pole. As the leader of the Baptist hosts, the paper was followed by its friends, and feared by its foes, for all recognized the wisdom, ability and fearlessness of its editor. Our rapid growth and development through these two decades was largely due to the influence of the *Biblical Recorder*.

For seven years Columbus Durham had been Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He entered the service of his country when a boy, and fought through the Civil War. No braver, truer soldier than he ever shouldered arms. He carried his military spirit into the army of his Lord, and was as true and loyal there as when fighting for his country. He was a man of remarkably strong convictions, and he had the courage to defend them. Like the Psalmist, he could say: "I believe and therefore I have spoken." As might have been expected, he did more than any other man of his day, perhaps, to create a denominational spirit among our people. He was an optimist in regard to the Lord's work. He believed in God and in his brethren. He was rather stimulated than discouraged by difficulties, and he had the power to inspire others by his spirit of confidence. He never knew how to spare himself in the work of the Lord, but put himself and his all upon the altar. The value of his life to our denomination can never be estimated.

Is it strange that a feeling of sadness pervaded the Convention when it was called to order in 1895? "The workers die, but the work goes on."

Mr. John C. Scarborough acted as Secretary from the time of Dr. Durham's death until the meeting of the Convention. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Scarborough for this service.

On motion, a committee was appointed with C. E. Taylor as chairman, and a representative from each

Association, to nominate a Corresponding Secretary. John E. White was nominated and unanimously elected. Thomas E. Skinner led in prayer, asking God's blessing on the new Secretary.

Dr. Bailey had been ill for two years, during which time J. W. Bailey had edited the *Recorder*. A committee on our denominational organ reported that, in their opinion, "it would be best that the publication of the paper go on under the ownership of the family and under the sole editorial management of Mr. J. W. Bailey, son of our deceased brother, who has for two years been practically the editor-in-chief."

The Committee on "Separate Board for Sunday Schools," report, recommending a separate Board. J. C. Scarborough submitted a minority report. These two reports were referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools and Colportage. The report of this committee, which was adopted, provides for the appointment of a committee of fifteen from the Board of Missions and Sunday Schools, to whom shall be entrusted the Sunday School work, and also the Supply Store. This committee is to elect a Sunday School Secretary. The work of the Sunday Secretary, under the direction of a committee is to be (1) to gather statistics concerning the Sunday School work in the State. (2) To establish new Sunday Schools wherever practicable and to increase the efficiency of existing ones. (3) To hold Sunday School institutes, and introduce the best literature. (4) To report to the

Board of Missions and Sunday Schools and through them to the Convention.

J. W. Carter, chairman of Committee on Baptist Female University, reports that the contract for the first building was let, and the walls are going up.

J. B. Boone was elected General Manager of the Orphanage at the last meeting of the Orphanage Association, and Archibald Johnson was elected editor of *Charity and Children*. The report states that there are 126 children at the Orphanage.

MORGANTON, NOVEMBER 11-15, 1896.

B. W. Spilman was elected Sunday School Missionary by the Sunday School Committee which was appointed at the last Convention. Mr. Spilman carried our Sunday School work through its darkest and most trying days. He met discouragements on every hand, but bravely overcame them. The work was new, the brethren were skeptical about it, and the support it received was very meagre; but despite all this, Mr. Spilman held on until he saw the Sunday School department on a firm footing. He made great sacrifices for the Sunday School Cause in North Carolina, but he has become an expert, whose ability is recognized throughout the country, North and South.

Ten years ago the Woman's Central Committee resumed work after a lapse of several years. At that time they reported ten societies; at this Convention (1896) they reported 250 societies, and they have

raised, during these ten years, \$31,499.05. A Band department has been organized with Miss Elizabeth Briggs, of Raleigh, as Superintendent.

Resolution by Dr. Hufham:

“Resolved, That we undertake to raise \$10,000 for Foreign Missions during the present year.

The State Mission Board is in debt \$2,350. Several reasons for this: 1. Dr. Durham’s sickness and death came in the midst of the Associations last year, hence State Missions was represented at only twelve of the forty-four Associations. 2. There was great political excitement. 3. The Convention meets a month earlier this year. The Convention resolved to undertake to raise this money within the next thirty days.

Dr. Pritchard, one of the most useful and beloved pastors of the State, has died since last Convention.

OXFORD, DECEMBER 9-13, 1897.

The Board of Missions and Sunday Schools makes an excellent report. For the first time in its history the Convention reached \$15,000 for State Missions. Last year’s debt of \$2,350 has been paid, and the Board reports this year a debt of only \$350.

On December 5th of last year, Brother Spilman, becoming convinced that the Book Store, on which the Sunday School department had depended for a support, could not be made to sustain the work, gave up the Book Store and took the field as General Missionary, to arouse an interest in Sunday Schools.

Since the first of March he has been doing his work practically without salary.

Woman's Central Committee reports larger increase in contributions and a greater number of societies organized than ever before. For the first time a committee was appointed to report on woman's work.

"Resolved, That we will try to raise for Home Missions \$4,000 by April 30th, in accordance with the terms of appropriation made to our work, and that we raise \$9,000 for Foreign Missions."

B. W. Spilman offered resolutions looking to the preservation of the history of our Convention. The resolutions suggest that the Statistical Secretary keep a file of all our denominational papers, school catalogues, associational and conventional minutes, the monthly and weekly publications to be bound annually and the annuals every decade. The resolution further suggests that a fire-proof vault be built as soon as possible for the safe keeping of this collection.

Committee on Female University report that the roof is now on the building and scaffolding is being taken down. It will take \$20,000 to get the building in condition to open next fall. A collection in cash and pledges was taken for the Uuniversity, amounting to \$4,714.

At the conclusion of the discussion of the report on Orphanage, a collection in cash and pledges was taken, amounting to \$1,260. This collection was for

the purpose of building a house for the General Manager. The collection was taken on Sunday evening. Dr. Hufham says this is the first time the Baptists in this State have ever built a house on Sunday.

GREENVILLE, DECEMBER 8-12, 1898.

It was here that the Convention was organized in 1830—sixty-eight years ago. “The little one has become a thousand.” This was an epoch-making session of the Convention, too, for it was at Greenville in 1898 that the State and Western Conventions were untied. An address of welcome was delivered by C. E. Taylor to the messengers from Western North Carolina. Remarks were also made by J. B. Boone, W. R. Gwaltney and T. E. Skinner. The hand of welcome was extended, and “Blest Be the Tie,” was sung.

G. W. Greene, from China, is at this Convention. He spoke on Foreign Missions.

Enlargement of State Missions work. “Your committee recommend that the recommendations of the Secretary of the Convention, as to the enlargement of the work, be adopted, and that the State Mission Board be instructed, as suggested, to operate on a basis of \$20,000 the ensuing year.” The Board of Missions and Sunday Schools was instructed to select and secure a general missionary, or missionaries, for the mountain section of the State, who shall work under the direction of the Board. It may be said here that the Board secured the services of A. E.

Brown. Mr. Brown's work was chiefly that of founding and fostering educational institutions in the West. To A. E. Brown is due largely the educational awakening in Western North Carolina.

J. W. Bailey was instructed to send a telegram of congratulation to H. A. Brown, of Winston, who, to-morrow, completes the twenty-first year of his ministry with the First Church in that city.

ASHEVILLE, DECEMBER 6-10, 1899.

E. Y. Mullins made an address on the Seminary. A collection in cash and pledges was taken for the students' aid fund at the Seminary, amounting to \$848.

Report on woman's work: "In round numbers the Woman's Missionary Societies have grown in fourteen years, from 14 to 400; have given during these fourteen years nearly \$52,000 to State, Home and Foreign Missions."

The State Mission Board makes a great report. All the old debt has been wiped out (about \$1,500 in all) and the Board is due its missionaries on this year's work only \$400. There were more missionaries employed by the Board last year than ever before. The Treasurer's report shows total contributions to be \$8,000 more than last year.

Baptist Female University, with J. C. Blasingame, President, opened its doors September 27th, 1899. There was an enrollment of 180, of which number 120 were boarders. R. T. Vann presented the following, which was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Baptist State Convention express its high appreciation of the faithful and efficient and self-denying service rendered by Miss Fannie E. S. Heck in securing funds for the Baptist Female University, and that we cordially commend her to the sympathy and co-operation of all our people.”

RALEIGH, DECEMBER 5-9, 1900.

John E. White, having accepted a call to become pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., it became necessary to elect his successor. A committee of one from each Association was appointed to nominate a Corresponding Secretary. The committee nominated Livingston Johnson, pastor of the First Church, Greensboro, who was elected by the Convention.

J. D. Boushall declined re-election as Treasurer, and Walters Durham was elected to that office. Baxter Durham had for some time been manager of the Book Store. These are both sons of the beloved and lamented C. Durham.

The Convention was addressed by John E. White, reviewing and forecasting the State Mission work. Mr. White did much for North Carolina during his five years of service as Secretary of the Convention. He gave our State a standing and prominence among the sisterhood of States in the Southern Baptist Convention, that she had never enjoyed before. He possessed ability as an organizer in an unusual degree and left as a heritage to his successor a superb organi-

zation. J. D. Hufham introduced the following resolutions, which were adopted by a unanimous rising vote:

“Whereas, Our beloved brother, John E. White, is with us for the last time as our Corresponding Secretary, and goes soon to make his home in another State; therefore,

“Resolved, That we will ever hold in grateful remembrance the wisdom, courage and unselfishness with which he has labored among us for five years.

“Resolved, That our hearts’ desire and prayer to God for him is, that grace, mercy and peace may continue to rest upon him henceforth and forever.”

J. W. Bailey, for the donors, presented a silver service to John E. White, the retiring Corresponding Secretary.

The report of the Woman’s Central Committee shows progress, as usual. The volunteer teachers’ movement has been inaugurated. Last year there were sixteen teachers in the West who taught from six weeks to two months “without money and without price,” receiving only their expenses. They report a total enrollment of 772 pupils. Fourteen years ago the Woman’s Central Committee reported for all objects \$1,000.95. This year (1900) their report shows \$9,710.84 for all objects.

The Female University has entered upon its second year. R. T. Vann was elected President and assumed his duties at the beginning of the present session. There is a \$40,000 debt on the University,

owing to the fact that the Trustees were forced to buy other buildings in order to accommodate those who desired to attend.

The following by J. D. Hufham was adopted:

“Resolved, That the Convention recommend the organization of a corporation to own and operate the *Biblical Recorder*, and the *North Carolina Baptist*, if desired, and appoint a committee of five to effect the same by the first of February, 1901, or earlier if possible.” The stock company was formed, the *Recorder* was purchased, and J. W. Bailey was elected editor.

Mr. Bailey is conceded to be one of the brightest editors in the South. He is an independent thinker and vigorous writer, and under his editorial management the *Recorder* has taken its place in the very front rank among Southern Baptist periodicals.

CHAPTER VIII.

1901—1907.

WINSTON-SALEM, DECEMBER 4-8, 1901.

The Mission Board began the year in debt. The work was laid out on a basis of \$25,000, which was \$5,000 advance over the preceding year. There was an indebtedness of \$4,611.16. This added to the \$25,000 appropriated, made, in round numbers, \$30,000 to be raised for State Missions. The Treasurer's report shows that \$23,637.90 was raised and \$2,000 borrowed from the bank. The missionaries were all paid in full, but it was necessary to carry over the \$4,000 debt into the next year.

At the Convention held in Raleigh in 1900 a movement was put on foot to raise \$100,000 as a "Century Fund," the money to go to the endowment and equipment of our Baptist schools. The Convention desired, by the raising of this fund, to mark the close of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. O. L. Stringfield was elected Financial Agent. Financially the movement was practically a failure. The committee attributes lack of interest on the part of the denomination to short crops and to fear that we would fail in our efforts to raise amount for State Missions. All will now agree, perhaps, that the churches could not be enlisted because there was nothing definite in the undertaking. One hundred

thousand dollars was to be raised, of which "one-half shall be given to our Baptist Female University in Raleigh, three-tenths to Wake Forest College, one-tenth to the Chowan Female Institute, and the remainder to be divided among the other institutions in North Carolina, which are owned and controlled in trust for the Baptists of North Carolina by Boards of Trustees." That was too much of a sheet lightning affair to appeal to North Carolina Baptists. We shall see that the needs of all of these institutions were met, when each appealed directly to the denomination for aid.

The great event of the Convention was the raising of \$42,647.00 in pledges to pay a debt that rested on the Baptist Female University.

Judge W. T. Faircloth, Chief Justice of North Carolina, has died since last Convention. While living, Judge Faircloth gave largely of his means to the Lord's cause, and left in his will valuable property to the Orphanage and the Baptist Female University. With the money realized from its part of the bequest, the University erected the magnificent building which bears the appropriate name of "Faircloth Hall."

O. L. Stringfield resigns as Financial Agent of the Baptist Female University. To no other man are we so much indebted for the school, which is now the pride of our denomination. His strong faith sustained him in the face of greatest discouragement. All over the State he went pleading that we give our Baptist girls educational facilities equal to those

which we had provided for our boys. Not only did he succeed in raising a large part of the money with which the main building was erected, but while doing that he awakened an interest in the education of women, as a result of which more students were present at the opening of the school than could be accommodated in the first building. The main building in the University for Women will stand as a monument to O. L. Stringfield.

DURHAM, DECEMBER 9-14, 1902.

Subscriptions amounting to four hundred dollars were taken, for the purpose of erecting a monument at the grave of Columbus Durham, and a committee, consisting of J. W. Bailey, J. C. Caddell and Noah Biggs, were appointed to complete the arrangements for the erection of the proposed monument.

At this session of the Convention, interest centers on Foreign Missions. W. C. Newton, pastor of the First Church, Greensboro, since last Convention, resigned as pastor, applied to the Foreign Mission Board for appointment as missionary to China, and was accepted. He expects to sail for his field of labor in a few weeks. Very touchingly he told of his call to the foreign field. The great congregation was mightily moved. The Convention was led in prayer by A. C. Barron, in behalf of Brother Newton and his wife.

It was stated on the floor of the Convention that in some of our denominational schools the public schools

were being taught, and public money received for same. The following was introduced by J. W. Bailey and passed unanimously:

“Resolved, That we reaffirm ourselves unalterably opposed to the policy of denominational schools receiving aid from the State.”

A committee, which had been appointed to report on Baptist History, recommended that a committee of three be appointed to employ a competent person to collect material for a history of the North Carolina Baptists, and that said committee be instructed to collect funds to pay the historian a salary not to exceed five hundred dollars.

Archibald Johnson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

“Resolved, That this Convention is in favor of the establishment, by the Legislature, of a reformatory for young criminals.”

By request of an informal conference, a committee was appointed to arrange for a mid-summer meeting of the Baptists of North Carolina. This committee selected Jackson Springs, in Moore County, as the place for the mid-summer meeting. For several years a meeting was held in a large tabernacle built for the purpose, by the proprietors of the Jackson Springs Hotel. Social pleasure and spiritual development were combined, and these gatherings were very enjoyable and uplifting.

W. N. Jones, chairman of the Educational Committee, reports that of the \$42,000 pledged at the last

Convention, \$31,517.50 has been raised. The debt on the University has been reduced to \$21,500.

Resolutions of sympathy are expressed to our brethren of Great Britain, and the non-conformists in general, in their proposed policy of resistance to the English Education Bill.

CHARLOTTE, DECEMBER 9-13, 1903.

B. D. Gray attends for the first time, as Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Board.

The Convention was held in Charlotte in 1894—just nine years ago. A comparison of figures for this year with those of 1894, shows that the total contributions have grown, during these nine years, from \$38,420.12 to \$82,568.38, an advance of more than a hundred per cent in nine years.

T. Neil Johnson resigned in April as Sunday School Secretary, to accept a position as teacher in the Baptist University for Women. The Convention instructed the Board, through its Sunday School Committee, to secure the services of a suitable man for the Sunday School work, and put him in the field as soon as possible. At its meeting, which was held in Raleigh a few days after the Convention, Hight C. Moore, pastor of the Church at Chapel Hill, was elected Sunday School Secretary.

Upon suggestion of J. D. Hufham, a free-will offering of \$32 was made for the purpose of placing in Memorial Hall at Wake Forest College, a portrait of Martin Ross, "founder of this Convention, and one of the first citizens of North Carolina."

The following resolution, presented by J. W. Bailey, was unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approves the suggestion made by the General Association of Virginia to the Southern Baptist Convention, that a commission be appointed to consider the obligation of the Southern Baptists to the negroes, and, if it seems to them well, to recommend to us ways and means of discharging that obligation.”

“On motion of Livingston Johnson, the President was requested to appoint a committee to present a report on the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.” This is the first time that the work of the Sunday School Board is presented to the Convention by a formal report.

The amount to be raised for State Missions next year was fixed at \$30,000.

On motion of A. E. Brown, pledges were taken to make up the balance due on the indebtedness of Baptist Female University; \$3,565 was raised, an amount sufficient to cover the indebtedness.

ELIZABETH CITY, DECEMBER 7-11, 1904.

The Committee on Enrollment reported a hundred and forty-eight delegates present when the Convention assembled. A few delegates came in after the first day, but the total number enrolled was the smallest in years. This is to be accounted for from the fact that Elizabeth City, the place of meeting, is in the extreme eastern section of the State.

R. H. Marsh, for the fourteenth successive year, was elected President of the Convention. At this session he announced that he would not accept the nomination for re-election, after this year. Dr. Marsh's term of service comes next in length to that of James McDaniel, one of the founders of the Convention. Dr. Marsh is a master of parliamentary practice, and presided with ease and dignity. During his administration the Convention often got itself into parliamentary tangles, but he led it safely through them all. He was cool-headed, just in his rulings and uniformly courteous. A dignified gentleman, an accomplished parliamentarian, he graced the position which he held so long.

In the report of the Mission Board this paragraph is found: "We believe, that in the matter of disbursing funds, appointing workers and in the management of mission matters in this State, by all Boards, the influence of the State Mission Board should be paramount."

At this Convention there is a great call for men. On the mission fields, at home and abroad, there is need for more ministers. On Friday morning the devotional hour was given to prayer for the call of ministers from the ranks of our Sunday Schools and churches.

The Convention heartily commended the great work being done by the Woman's Missionary Societies, and urged the pastors and churches to give to

these good women their sympathy and encouragement.

W. E. Entzminger, missionary to Brazil, is at this Convention and speaks about the work in Brazil.

J. C. Massee introduced the following resolution:

“Resolved, That this Convention instruct its Board of Missions and Sunday Schools to appoint an evangelistic committee of seven, to receive its necessary expenses from the Treasurer of the Convention, not more than \$250.”

Two years later, largely as a result of the above resolution, two evangelists were employed by the Board.

T. J. Taylor, chairman of the Historical Committee, submitted the following report:

“Your committee found our people willing to furnish funds to have the history of North Carolina Baptists written, but not being able to have the work done, we beg to be discharged.”

A telegram of sympathy is sent to C. A. G. Thomas, former pastor of the First Church, Elizabeth City, and builder of the present house of worship, whose illness prevented his attendance at this session.

On motion of C. W. Scarborough, a committee was appointed to confer with the Trustees of the Orphanage with a view to establishing, if possible, some organic connection between the Orphanage and the Convention. It will be remembered that there was strong opposition to establishing a Baptist Orphanage, when the resolution, providing for its establish-

ment, was introduced. The friends of the measure withdrew the resolution, and the Baptist Orphanage Association was organized. There was, of course, no organic connection between the Convention and the Orphanage. The Orphanage was built and the churches have gladly supported it; indeed it is now the pet of the denomination. Since the adoption of the resolution introduced by Mr. Scarborough, the Orphanage presents reports of its work to the Convention just as do Wake Forest College and the Baptist University for Women.

RALEIGH, DECEMBER 6-10, 1905.

While the last Convention was the smallest held for several years, the enrollment at Raleigh in 1905, was the largest in the history of the Convention.

W. N. Jones was elected President.

The Board recommended that the money appropriated by the Home Board to the Mountain Schools be so designated, and that it be not counted as State Mission funds. "This will make the contributions to State Missions appear less, but it will correctly represent the amount we contribute to that object."

The Convention adjourned, at 12 o'clock on Thursday, to attend in the afternoon, at Wake Forest College, the exercises in connection with the inauguration of W. L. Poteat, as President of the College.

The discussion of State Missions was unusually interesting. Missionaries from different sections gave briefs accounts of their work, and the Convention

was stirred as they listened to these stories of trials and triumphs.

In the summer of 1905, J. B. Boone resigned as General Manager of the Orphanage, and M. L. Kesler was elected to succeed him. When Mr. Boone assumed charge there were 126 children in the Orphanage. When he left there were more than 300. Mr. Boone's was a very wise and aggressive administration. He will go down in history as the "Building Manager" of the Orphanage. Several excellent and much-needed buildings were erected, and some of the old ones greatly improved, under his management.

The following important resolution was offered by J. W. Bailey and unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this Convention propose to the churches that they undertake right away \$150,000 for the endowment fund of Wake Forest, and to this end that the Trustees of the College be authorized to devise ways and means."

A resolution was introduced by B. W. Spilman, providing for the appointment of a committee of five to take into consideration the advisability of securing one or more assembly grounds. The resolution was adopted, and a committee appointed, consisting of J. H. Tucker, B. W. Spilman, Hight C. Moore, N. B. Broughton, and H. W. Battle.

The Woman's Auxiliary Union, which for years held its annual meetings at the same time and place at which the Convention held its sessions, decided to hold their next meeting with the First Church in

Durham, and selected April instead of December, as the time of meeting. This change was made because the large number of delegates which attended both meetings, made the entertainment of the two meetings quite a burden to any community. Miss Fannie E. S. Heck, who, practically since the beginning of the woman's work in the State, has been President of the Union, was, in May, 1906, elected President of the Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. This so increased her burdens, that it was found necessary to create the office of Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. Mrs. Hight C. Moore was elected to this position and is filling the place most acceptably. Miss Heck is still President of the Union in this State, and her interest in the State work has not abated one whit. Too high an estimate can not be put upon the work of Miss Heck as President, and Mrs. W. N. Jones, as Secretary and Treasurer of the Woman's Auxiliary Union. Through all these years they have wrought together, and the remarkable success of the societies in the State is largely attributable to their unselfish labors. "The Young Woman's Auxiliary Department" was organized, with Miss Mary K. Applewhite, Dean of the Normal Department in the Baptist University for Women, as Secretary.

Braxton Craig, Rocky Mount, was elected evangelist for the East, and W. R. Bradshaw, of Reidsville, evangelist for the West.

GREENSBORO, DECEMBER 5-9, 1906.

The Committee on "Assembly Grounds" report that they had secured an option on 940 acres of land at the Swannanoa Tunnel, on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This property was afterward purchased, and a charter obtained from the Legislature, which convened in 1907. Lots are being sold to Baptists throughout the South and as rapidly as possible the grounds will be developed.

There were two mountain peaks in this Convention: one was the discussion of State Missions and the other the endowment movement for Wake Forest College.

The report on State Missions came up at 11 o'clock on Friday. One of the most notable speeches ever delivered on the floor of the Convention, was made by J. W. Bailey, on "The Strategic Hour in North Carolina Baptist Progress." Last year the Board operated on a basis of \$30,000. They recommended in their report to the present Convention that the figures be fixed at \$40,000. In speaking of our great opportunity, Mr. Bailey said, "The Board has recommended that we raise \$40,000 next year. We could use \$50,000 to great advantage." Cries of "Make it fifty! Make it fifty!" were heard from every part of the building. It was a remarkable hour in the Convention's history. Mr. Bailey's speech was put in tract form and did much to arouse the Baptists of the State to the importance of sustaining the work of State Missions in this "strategic hour."

Friday evening the endowment of Wake Forest College was made the special order. The General Education Board had proposed to give \$37,500 on condition that the Baptists of the State raise \$112,500, making a total of \$150,000. A subscription was taken in pledges amounting to \$32,000. There was great enthusiasm during the discussion and raising of these pledges. To J. B. Carlyle, Professor of Latin in Wake Forest College, was entrusted the work of securing the \$112,500 to be contributed by the Baptists of the State. He entered upon his duties as Financial Agent in the spring and was indefatigable in his labors until the meeting of the Convention in 1907. Prof. Carlyle not only succeeded in securing in notes the full amount he set out to raise, but his canvass did much to strengthen the tie between the college and the denomination.

The Convention has not held a greater meeting in recent years than the one which closed its session in Greensboro, December 9, 1906.

WILMINGTON, DECEMBER 4-7, 1907.

W. N. Jones declined re-election as President, and J. B. Carlyle was elected. Mr. Jones is a man whom the Baptists delight to honor. He is a modest Christian gentleman, and did not want the position of honor which his brethren forced upon him. For two years he presided with grace and dignity, and it was only out of deference to his wishes that the Convention allowed him to retire from the President's chair.

J. W. Bailey sold his interest in the *Biblical Recorder* to C. W. Blanchard, who became editor May the first, 1907. Just before the Convention the *Recorder* Company bought the *North Carolina Baptist*, which had been owned and edited for several years by John A. Oates, of Fayetteville.

In order that there might be a more vital relation between the Convention and the *Recorder*, the Directors of the *Recorder* Company submitted a proposition to the Convention, asking the Convention to "appoint a committee of seven, who shall be non-stockholders, who, with the Directors, shall constitute a committee, which committee shall elect the editor of the paper." This proposition was accepted, and the following brethren were appointed as the Convention's committee: W. C. Dowd, F. P. Hobgood, J. C. Massee, J. T. Alderman, Wm. Lunsford, C. A. Jenkins and C. J. Thompson. The committee met in Raleigh after the Convention and elected Rev. Hight C. Moore editor of the *Biblical Recorder*.

Mr. Blanchard left a pleasant pastorate to become editor of the *Recorder*. It will be remembered that on two occasions the Convention, by resolution, expressed its wish that there might be a unification of the Baptist papers in the State. The suggestion of the Convention was carried into effect while Mr. Blanchard was editor of the *Recorder*. A very amicable and satisfactory arrangement was made with Mr. John A. Oates, editor and proprietor of the *North Carolina Baptist*, whereby the *Recorder*

Company, by purchase, became the owner of the *North Carolina Baptist*. Mr. Blanchard made many friends while editor of the *Recorder*, who will wish for him the highest measure of success as he re-enters the pastorate. During his management of the paper it was safe, sane and sound.

Mr. Moore comes to the editorial chair well fitted for his work. He is a man of gentle spirit, ripe scholarship, broad culture and editorial instinct. He is the author of several books of merit, and has been a valuable contributor to both the secular and religious press. For years he has been a close and critical student of the Bible, and will keep the paper true to its name—the *Biblical Recorder*.

W. R. Gwaltney, one of the oldest and most useful members of the Convention, was prevented from attending this session on account of sickness. He sent the following telegram: "Too sick to be with you. Numbers 13:30, 'Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.'"

This is the dying message of a brave soldier, who had fallen on the field of battle, to those in the front ranks. A few days after the Convention adjourned, Dr. Gwaltney was called to his reward. He well deserved the title of "Church Builder," which was given him by his brethren. At many important points he laid the foundations deep and strong. He was a trustee of Wake Forest College and of the Orphanage, and was deeply interested in every denominational enterprise.

The following resolution was offered by R. E. Neighbor, and adopted:

“Resolved, That the Convention by rising vote extend to J. W. Bailey and John A. Oates their deepest appreciation of the service rendered by them to our Lord Jesus and to our Baptist brotherhood.

“These men for years toiled as editors of the *Recorder and N. C. Baptist* respectively. They worked in harmony as editors, and in their retiring from active editorial life we desire to express our appreciation of their service.”

Subscriptions were taken amounting to \$10,200 to complete the \$150,000 additional endowment for Wake Forest College.

The following resolution, offered by Hight C. Moore, was unanimously adopted by rising vote:

“Whereas, This session marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the unbroken service of Bro. N. B. Broughton as Recording Secretary of the Convention; therefore, be it

“Resolved, That we hereby express our grateful appreciation of his faithful and efficient services during this most prosperous quarter century in the history of North Carolina Baptists.”

Mr. Broughton has always been deeply interested in the Sunday School work. Time and again he has urged its importance at the meetings of the Convention. For years he has been Chairman of the Sunday School Committee of the State Mission Board. He has been Superintendent of the Tabernacle Sun-

day, School, in Raleigh, for thirty-two years. Under his leadership it has grown, from a little mission school, to be the largest in the State.

CONCLUSION.

This is a brief and imperfect review of the work done by the Baptists of the State since the organization of the Convention in 1830. It is simply a compilation of the history as they made it and as it was recorded annually by the Secretary. Of course all they did could not be noted in a work so brief as this; but the most important matters have been gathered.

Just a glance backward may give us some faint idea of what the Baptists, by organized effort, have accomplished in the State during these seventy-seven years.

When the Convention was organized in 1830, there were 15,000 Baptists, white and colored, in the State; now there are more than 350,000. Then we had no school, no orphanage, no denominational paper; now we have all these and all are flourishing. The first year the Convention met, it reported for education and State Missions, the two objects to which it contributed, \$700. This year (1907) total contributions to the benevolent objects reached \$128,719.45.

It was the organization of the State Convention, and the exceedingly wise plans laid by its founders, that secured this marvelous growth.

In reading this history some may have gotten the

impression that there was never any manifestation of spiritual power in the Convention; that it was only concerned with material things such as money and method. If any one has reached any such conclusion, he is very much mistaken. All along through the years, there have been seasons of great spiritual refreshing during the sessions of the Convention. A half hour is set apart every morning for devotional exercises. This time is given to song and prayer and an interchange of experiences. During these delightful services the hearts of those present are frequently stirred to their profoundest depths. The speeches on the different objects are often characterized by great spiritual fervor. Frequently during the deliberations some brother will suggest that the Convention be led in special prayer for some object. When such request is made the Convention suspends whatever matter of business it is considering, and gathers about the Father's throne. The Secretary keeps an accurate record of the business done. He records the motions, the resolutions and the reports. His record reveals but the wheels of the machinery; but behind this, the spiritual fervor is a mighty reserve force which falls upon the wheels and imparts to them life and power.

Those who judge of the Convention by reading the records of its proceedings, see only the wheels, but those who attend the sessions know that often great waves of spiritual fervor have swept over and moved the great gathering. Those who have been present

on such occasions can say with Ezekiel, "The Spirit of the Living Creature was in the wheels." The machinery is necessary, money and methods are important in their places; but may the day never come when the Baptists of North Carolina will fail to put the emphasis on the spiritual. We must never forget that it is "not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

With such a grand foundation laid at so great cost, should we not count ourselves highly favored in having the opportunity of adding our part to this glorious structure?



PROGRAM

OF THE

8th Annual Convention

OF THE

Wilson County Interdenominational
Sunday School Association



MARSH SWAMP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

One-fourth mile west of Rock Ridge Academy



Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 15 and 16, 1913.

PROGRAM

Saturday Morning, November 15, 1913.

- 10:30 a. m.—Devotional Service, by Rev. M. Bradshaw.
10:50 Welcome Address, by Rev. C. O. Armstrong, Pastor Marsh Swamp Church.
11:00 Response by President of County S. S. Association.
11:10 Address, "The Sunday School and its effect on Church and Community," by Rev. T. W. Chambliss, Pastor Baptist Church, Wilson, N. C.
11:35 Address, "The Sunday School Pupil and the Teacher's Task," by Mr. M. W. Brabham, of Raleigh, Sunday School Field Secretary N. C. Methodist Conference.
12:10 p. m.—Enrollment of Delegates and appoint Committees

Saturday Afternoon

- 1:30 p. m.—Song Service.
1:45 Address, "A Four Square Man," by Rev. Richard Bagby, Pastor Christian Church, Wilson, N. C.
2:15 Address, "The Relation of the Story in Primary Department," by Miss Daphne Caraway, of Wilson, Supt. Primary Department, Wilson Presbyterian Church.
2:45 Round Table, "The S. S. Teacher," conducted by Rev. J. Walter Long, of Greensboro, General Secretary N. C. Sunday School Association.
3:15 Address, "The Sunday School, a Factor in Americas' Mission," by Mr. T. C. Council of Raleigh, Pres. Simms Baraca Class of Tabernacle Sunday School.

Saturday Night

- 7:30 p. m.—Devotional Service, by Rev. C. O. Armstrong.
7:50 Address, "When is Organization of a Sunday School Complete," by Rev. J. Walter Long.
8:20 Address, by Hon. J. A. Brown of Chadbourne, Pres. of North Carolina Sunday School Association.
8:55 Report of Officers and Committees.

Sunday Morning, Nov. 16.



- 10:00 a. m.—Devotional Service, by Rev. C. O. Armstrong.
- 10:30 Address, "The Sunday School an Educational Institution and its Relation to the Church and State," by Prof. E. W. Sikes of Wake Forest College.
- 11:05. Address, "The Trained S. S. Worker a Necessity for Christian Progress," by Mr. M. W. Brabham, of Raleigh S. S. Field Secretary N. C. Methodist Conference.
- 11:40. Address, "The World's Seventh Sunday School Convention recently held at Zurich Switzerland," by Rev. J. Walter Long, of Greensboro, who was a delegate at the Convention.
- 12:15. Adjourn for dinner.

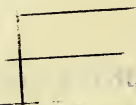
Afternoon Session

- 1:45. p. m.—Song Service.
- 2:00. Address, "The Child," by Hon. J. A. Brown, of Chadbourne Pres. N. C. Sunday School Association.
- 2:35. Round Table, "S. S. Management," conducted by Mr. M. W. Brabham, of Raleigh.
- 3:00. Address, "Organized Class Work and what it is accomplishing," by Rev. J. Walter Long, of Greensboro.
- 3:30. Address, by Prof. E. W. Sikes of Wake Forest.

—SEE BACK PAGE

NOTES



1. Every S. S. in the County should be represented in this Convention and delegates are invited to take part in all discussions. Go for the opening session and remain for the close. Should not miss any the good things to be said.
2. Every Pastor, Superintendent and Teacher in the County should be present as many sessions as possible.
3. Every Pastor in the County ——— an obligation to the cause.
4. All money intended for  state work should be sent to Secretary or brought to the Convention.
5. Bring pencil and pad ——— carry ——— home with you.
6. Distinguished Speakers to be at each Session. The President of State Sunday School Association, General Secretary State Association, the Sunday School Field Secretary of N. C. Methodist Conference and ——— of the faculty of some of States best Colleges are on program.

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